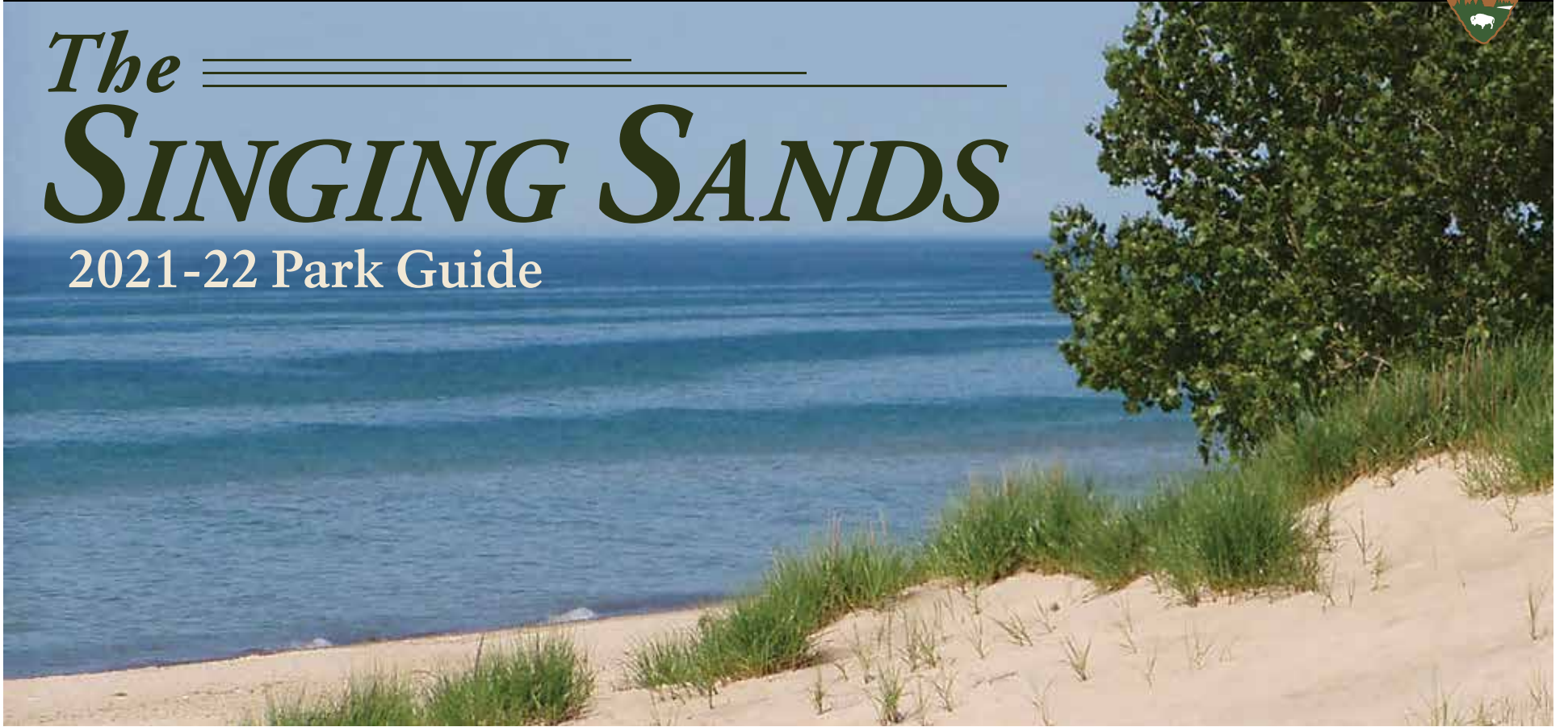




The *SINGING SANDS*

2021-22 Park Guide



- MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT 4-5
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- PARK MAP 12-13
- KIDS PAGE 14
- HIKING & TRAIL MAPS 17-22
- BEACH PARKING: (219) 395-1003



How to Use This Trip Planner

Welcome to two parks, one national and one state, both named Indiana Dunes. This guide will be your one stop shop for activities, safety tips, maps, rules, and fun ideas for your visit to Indiana Dunes State and National parks. You will find a map of the entire area in the centerfold of the paper. Use that to navigate your way around the area. Check out the index here to find the pages with details on camping, hiking, or trails. This guide has it all.

Take it to the next level with the new National Park Service app. Download it from your app store by searching National Parks. Then search for Indiana Dunes. The app will give you real-time GPS data on your location and what you can do at each spot.



You will notice QR codes throughout the paper which will direct you to web sites with more content, photos, or video to help you plan your trip.

We have a variety of programs available all year long, and the best place to find information on those fun activities with our staff is on our website calendar located at

NPS.gov/INDU. Click on calendar to search by date to see what is happening during your visit and how you can join us. Most of our programs are free, but many require advance registration.

Whether you are here for an hour or a week, this trip planner is your essential tool for a fun, safe visit to the Indiana Dunes.

Two Great Parks, One Great Place

Indiana Dunes National Park

Indiana Dunes State Park

NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION



PARK WEBSITE
Scan QR code
or visit:
[NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Park Hours:
Open 6:00 am – 11:00 pm
Central Time (CT) unless
otherwise posted.

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Phone: (219) 395-1882
Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Due
to COVID) (CT)
Address: 1215 SR-49
Porter, IN 46304

**Paul H. Douglas Center for
Environmental Education**
Phone: (219) 395-1824
Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (CT)
Address: 100 North Lake Street
Gary, IN 46403

MAILING ADDRESS:
Indiana Dunes National Park
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304

The Official
NPS App is
HERE

Download Now

Search "National Park Service" in the app stores or use the QR code.

Call 1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)
to report emergencies and
suspicious or criminal activity.

Your adventure guide to the National Park and the State Park **DNR**



Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Find all of your orientation needs here. Talk to a ranger and learn about the park's locations, activities, programs, and nearby attractions. View two short films about the park and the region. Spend some time in the activity room and check out the gift shop.


Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Interactive nature programs, activities, unique live animals, and exhibits can be found here. Hike through the beautiful Miller Woods, to the beach. Children can also explore the outdoor Nature Play Zone.

Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center

A variety of hands-on exhibits serving as a fantastic introduction to the wonders of the Indiana Dunes and its habitats. Here interpretive naturalists offer experiences via hikes, live animals, indoor programs, and special events to a range of audiences.

Scan for Visitor Center's website



1215 SR-49
Porter, IN 46304
Phone: (219) 395-1882



Scan for Douglas Center's website



100 North Lake Street
Gary, IN 46403
Phone: (219) 395-1824



Scan for State Park's website



1600 N. 25 E.
Chesterton, IN 46304
Phone: (219) 926-1390



	NATIONAL PARK	DNR STATE PARK
LOCATIONS	Over 25 distinct locations to choose from, stretched across 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan, measuring over 15,000 acres between Gary and Michigan City, IN.	One contiguous landscape, Park is composed of a large recreation area and 1,588 acres of state designated nature preserves and national natural landmarks.
FEES	All areas free except West Beach, \$6 per vehicle, \$30 per bus, applies Memorial Day - Labor Day. (Expanded Amenity Fee) See page 4 for accepted passes.	Daily entrance fee: \$7 Indiana resident vehicle or \$12 nonresident vehicle. See page 4 for accepted passes.
CAMPING	Dunewood Campground: \$25 per night - primitive. Campground closed from Nov 2 to Mar 31. Reservations Only. See page 6.	Sites include 50 amp electrical service and access to shower houses. \$24.61 Sun-Wed. \$32.10 Thur-Sat. For reservations, visit camp.IN.gov
CONCESSIONS	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center Gift Shop, West Beach Snack Bar & Gift Shop (seasonal), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion Snack Bar (seasonal).	Food service and gift shop available at beach pavilion. Gift shop available at nature center. Supplies, food, and gifts available at camp store.
BATHHOUSE / PAVILION	West Beach Bathhouse: Seasonal restrooms, potable water, indoor showers, and lockers. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion: 3,500 square foot, includes restrooms, a seasonal snack bar and a classroom/meeting space.	Exterior showers and changing rooms, restrooms, changing stations, and sinks available at beach comfort station. Restrooms, food service, and gifts available in pavilion.
BEACH PARKING	Over 1,119 spaces spread over 8 beach access sites. For parking information call (219) 395-1003.	3 Beach parking lots with approximately 2,000 spaces. Separate picnic area parking available throughout park. Parking available at Nature Center, North Orchard, and Wilson Shelter lots.
TRAILS	14 distinctly named trail systems with greater than 50 miles of diverse habitats. Maps on pages 16-22.	Network of 9 numbered trails throughout the state park with 16.35 miles. See p. 23
PICNIC AREAS	14 differently located picnic areas total, 7 are sheltered, and 2 are sheltered & reservable. To reserve a picnic table visit nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/picnic.htm	Beach picnic tables available during season at west lot. 15 acre picnic area with playground by Auxiliary lot. 6 reservable shelters, plus additional picnic tables and grilling areas spread throughout the park, 7 sheltered.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	Multitude of public programs and special events. See page 8.	Also hosts variety of programs and special events. Visit calendar.dnr.IN.gov or call at 219-926-1390.
CULTURAL SITES	Diana of the Dunes (West Beach), Century of Progress Homes, Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, Sacred Sands Audio Tour (Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk). Indiana Dunes Visitor Center & Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education (See top of page)	Nature Center, CCC Memorial Presentation Area, JD Marshall Underwater Nature Preserve, Wilson Shelter CCC Project Site, La Petite Fort Revolutionary War Historic Battle Marker, Historic Stone Gatehouses, Historic Beach Pavilion



DNR Superintendents Welcome

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park. It's heartwarming to think of the spring and summer seasons as we watch the snow leave the Indiana Dunes. After this past year, we realize how important our public open spaces are to our physical and mental well-being.

Our world is ever-changing so please enjoy your visit while paying attention to the current public health guidelines and regulations at the time of your visit. Respect others as you encounter them and thank them for showing consideration by doing the smart and right things to protect each other.

As the managers for each park, we are working to provide information to you, the visitor, for both the Indiana Dunes National Park and the Indiana Dunes State Park. What's the difference? Both are great public parks. The partnership here is not unique; there are



RAFI WILKINSON

many places where national and state parks overlap. The combination just means more and better opportunities for visitors.

Indiana Dunes National Park is one of 423 units of the National Park System that includes places like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite. It's a collection of America's greatest natural and cultural places and stories and is operated by the National Park Service, part of the federal government.

Within the boundary of Indiana Dunes National Park is Indiana Dunes State Park, one of 25 State Parks managed by the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and part of state government. Indiana Dunes is one of the best examples of your state and federal governments working side by side to provide terrific public service and experiences.

With the memory of the large crowds of 2020 fresh in our minds, we are working on ways to help visitors minimize the time they spend waiting to park to enjoy the beaches and trails. Our parking hotline (219-395-1003) is a good place to start as you begin your trip and get closer to the Indiana Dunes. Why get stuck in your car when you can find available parking and discover a new beach?

In the long term, we are working on technologies to help with realtime parking



Paul Labovitz (National Park) and Mickey Rea (State Park)

data to improve your ability to know where to go when you arrive. With over 15-miles of beaches, there is always a place to find some peace and quiet here. You may have to be adventurous to find it. The best advice is get an early start, avoid the weekends if you can, and do some research on our website or app before you arrive.

We're glad you've decided to visit your state and national parks. Understanding the differences is not as important as making sure you know they are here for you and that you enjoy yourself safely.

by Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent, Paul Labovitz & Indiana Dunes State Park Manager, Mickey Rea



Top Visitor Questions

What time does the park close?

The national park visitor center's hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (CT). The Douglas Center operates 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (CT). All times are Central Time.

Unless otherwise posted, all public use areas are open daily from 6:00 am–11:00 pm (CT). Note that West Beach has a \$6 amenity fee daily from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Indiana Dunes State Park is open 7 days a week from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm year round. The Nature Center is open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Visit nps.gov/indu/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm for more information on hours throughout the park.



Where can I buy food?

The local towns outside the park have lots of choices for restaurants and grocery stores. Within the park, visitors can grab a bite to eat at concession operations working at West Beach and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.

The Pavilion at Indiana Dunes State Park offers a number of options for different tastes.



Which trail is best to hike?

The national park has over 50 miles of trails and the state park another 16+ miles. You can find trail information and maps in this guide on pages 16-23. You can also download the free REI app called the Hiking Project at www.hikingproject.com to learn about lots of trails in both parks. This app allows visitors to add content and photos about their favorite hikes.

Where may I climb a dune?

Long Lake Trail at West Beach has a dune face on the marked trail, which visitors enjoy

climbing. In addition, it hosts the Dunes Succession Trail and a set of stairs to traverse the dune. Both dunes offer great views.

The 3 Dunes Challenge at Indiana Dunes State Park offers guests the opportunity to reach the summits of the three tallest dunes in the park.

Do you close the beach when high waves are present or E. coli levels are high?

No. The national park does not close its beach due to water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas, and you must determine what is safe for you. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach. Lifeguards are not present at other national park beaches.

State park waters are only open when lifeguards are on duty and conditions are appropriate for swimming. Call the state park for water conditions at 219-926-1390.

Call the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 for information regarding E. coli levels.



May I take my pet with me for a hike?

Yes. Pets are permitted on most park trails and beaches as long as they are leashed (6' or less). Pets are prohibited inside government buildings, except for the West Beach bathhouse.

West Beach and State Park beach – From Memorial Day through Labor Day, pets are prohibited on the beach within the lifeguarded areas. This area is the section of beach directly north of the bathhouse stairs and is designated along the beach with park signs. Pets are only permitted to walk through the lifeguarded area to reach the beaches on either side of the closure area.

Pets are not allowed on the Glenwood Dunes Trail, Pinhook Bog Trail and the designated nature play areas. This avoids conflicts with equestrian riders, protects sensitive vegetation, and compatible use with other visitors.



Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground, at the national park, is open April through October. For more information please turn to page 6 or call 219-395-1882.

Indiana Dunes State Park also has a large campground with electricity. They recommend reservations most of the year. For more information, see page 23 or visit camp.in.gov



Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! There are several Junior Ranger books to guide you on adventures through various park locations. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up Junior Ranger materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Douglas Center.

The State Park offers the Explorer Pin program for adventurers of all ages.



Can I take public transportation to the park?

Yes. The South Shore train has four stops near park access sites and runs between Chicago and South Bend. For a schedule, visit mysouthshoreline.com. See page 4.

Stay on the trails to protect fragile areas, plants, and animals.

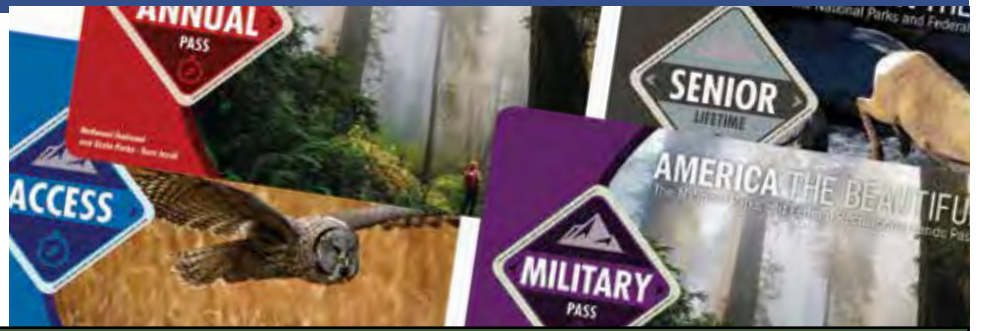


Making the Most of Your Visit

Passes


WHERE DO I PURCHASE PASSES?

The America the Beautiful Pass can be obtained at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the West Beach Kiosk. Indiana Dunes State Park Passes are available at the State Park Office or Gate. Indiana Dunes National Park and State Park do not reciprocate pass discounts.



America the Beautiful National Recreation and Lands Pass

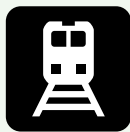
Accepted Passes at Indiana Dunes National Park • Expanded Amenity Fee for West Beach and Camping Fee

Lifetime Senior Pass	\$80	50% discount	62 years old
Annual Senior Pass	\$20	50% discount	62 years old, Expires 1 year from purchase
Access Pass	Free	50% discount	Permanent Disability
NOT Accepted Passes at West Beach or Dunewood Campground. Can only be used at federal parks that have an entrance fee.			
Annual Pass	\$80	Scan code for more info about passes. 	Expires 1 year from purchase
Volunteer Pass	Free		250 hrs of volunteer work
Military Pass	Free		Active Military, Veteran or Gold Star Family
Every Kid in a Park (4th Grade)	Free		4th graders and family

Indiana State Park Pass (Applies to state property gate fee)

Indiana State Park Annual Pass- resident	\$50	100% discount	Calendar year pass
Indiana State Park Annual Pass - non-resident	\$70	100% discount	Calendar year pass
Golden Hoosier Passport (GHP)	\$25	100% discount	(65 years old) Calendar year pass
GHP Social Security Disability Income	\$25	100% discount	Indiana residents receiving or eligible to receive SSDI year pass
GHP Disabled Hoosier Veterans	\$25	100% discount	Indiana Veterans who possess or eligible to buy DHV license plate year pass

Getting Here by Public Transportation



BY TRAIN

Northern Indiana Commuter Train District:

The South Shore train has four stops near park access sites and runs between Chicago and South Bend. The stops near the park are Miller, Ogden Dunes, Dune Park and Beverly Shores. For a schedule, visit mysouthshoreline.com.



BY BUS

Gary Public Transportation Corporation has bus routes in the west end of the park: Bus route 13 (Oak & County Line Road) passes directly in front of the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and close to the entrance of West Beach. The Douglas Center and West Beach are located in the park's west end. Visit gptcbus.com for current schedules and fares.

Paul H. Douglas Center:

East bound riders can get off the bus at the corner of 4th & Lake Street and walk about 2 blocks north on Lake Street to the center. West bound riders should ask the driver to stop in front of the center located on Lake Street between Birch and 3rd Street. If the driver is unable to stop in front of the center, then get off at the corner of 3rd and Lake Street and walk about 1 block north.

West Beach:

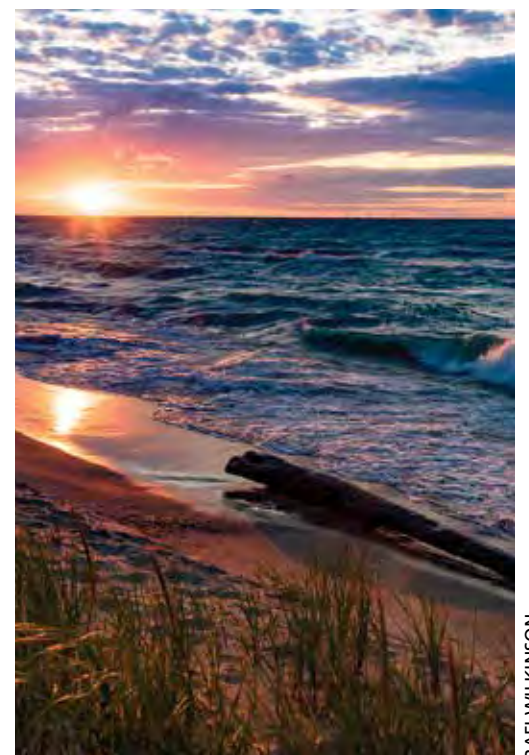
The east bound bus stops at the corner of Pottawatomie Trails and County Line Road. After exiting the bus, walk about 1/4 mile south along County Line Road. When you reach the West Beach access road, walk along that road into West Beach.

Adventure Ideas

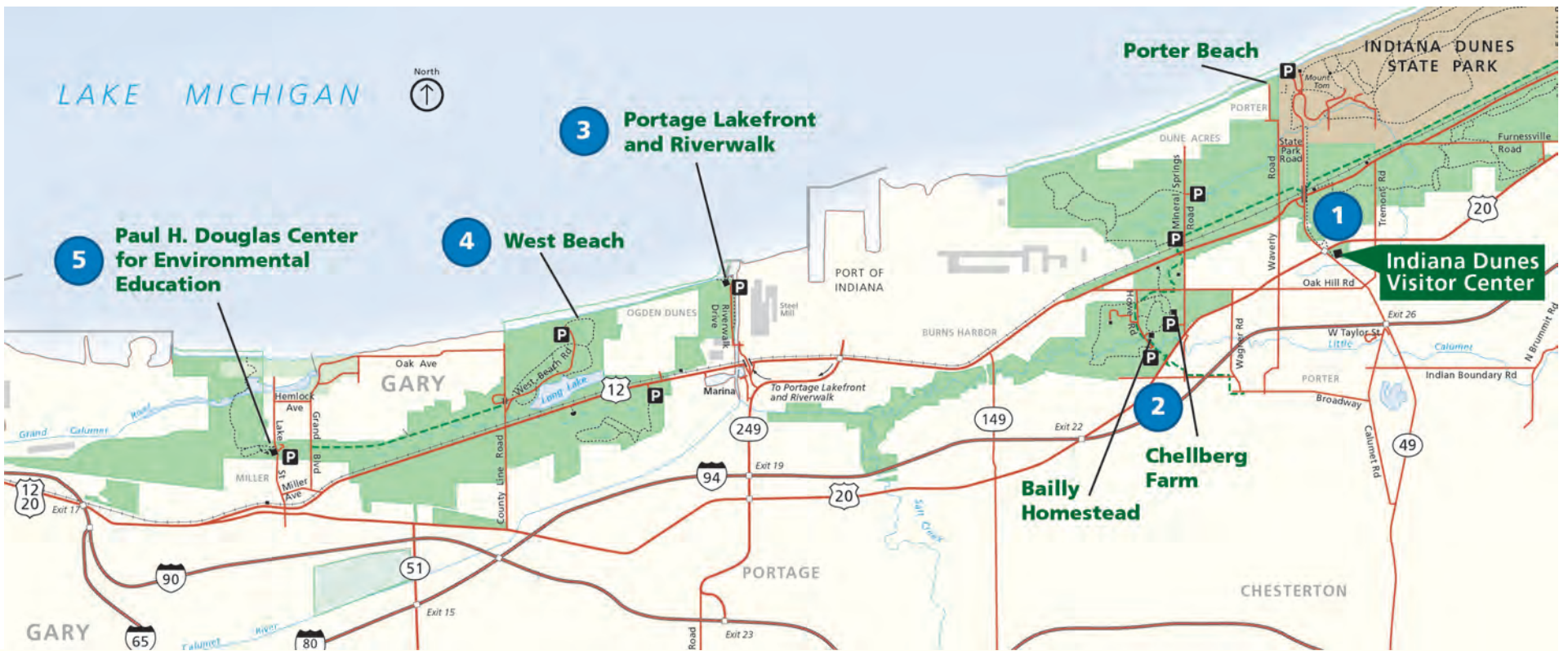


- Park and stroll along the sandy shoreline of Lake Michigan and the national park to experience the Indiana Dunes at Porter, Kemil, Dunbar, or Lake View Beach.
- Head to West Beach and hike the Dune Succession Trail and take the Diana Dunes Dare to earn a sticker. Stickers are available at the Visitor Center and Douglas Center.

- Go to the Indiana Dunes National Park Visitor Center and watch our new video about Indiana Dunes National and State Parks. After, feel free to browse for souvenirs at the Eastern National gift shop.
- Travel east along Lake Front Drive in Beverly Shores to view Lake Michigan and the five historic Century of Progress Homes. Take a selfie and be sure to check out the waysides for some interesting facts about these architectural treasures.
- Bring a picnic or meal from our many surrounding restaurants, or buy a goodie from the residing snack bar and enjoy it while relaxing at the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, or Lake View picnic areas. You can listen to the birds, or whispering marram grass, while watching a sunset on the beach.
- 3 Dune Challenge at Indiana Dunes State Park: Challenge yourself, your friends and your family to climb the three tallest sand dunes any day of the year. This 1.5-mile self-guided challenge trail begins at the nature center and is the toughest trail in the park, with 552 vertical feet to climb. Your reward is not only breathtaking views atop each of the dunes, but also a free 3-Dune Conqueror sticker from Indiana Dunes Tourism. For more information, see page 16.



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Driving Tours

West Side Driving Tour Points of Interest



DRIVING TOUR: WEST SIDE
Approximately 1-2 Hours, 15 Miles Total

1. Indiana Dunes Visitor Center - Start your trip here and get orientated with the park. 1215 SR-49, Porter, IN 46304, Phone: 219-395-1882
2. Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm – Go for a short stroll and learn about the park’s historic district and see the farm animals. 618 North Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304
3. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk- Enjoy a view of Lake Michigan from the pavilion. Seasonal food services are available. Walk along the breakwater for fishing and birdwatching. Check out the Sacred Sands Audio Tour. 100 Riverwalk Road, Portage, IN 46368
4. West Beach (seasonal fee area)- Enjoy the bathhouse, lifeguarded beach, and earn a sticker by hiking the new Diana Dunes Dare Trail. 376 North County Line Road, Gary, IN 46403
5. Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education- Check out exhibits, classrooms or hike the 3.5-mile trail through Miller woods to the beach. 100 North Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403



SKIP DIETZ



DRIVING TOUR: EAST SIDE
Approximately lasts 1-2 Hours, 14 Miles Total

East Side Driving Tour Points

1. Indiana Dunes Visitor Center - Start your trip here and learn about the park. 1215 SR-49, Porter, IN 46304 Phone: 219-395-1882
2. Indiana Dunes State Park - Explore more than 2,000 acres of beachfront, marshes, forests, and dunes. 1600 N 25 East, Chesterton, 219-926-1952
3. Kemil, Dunbar, Lake View Beaches – Pet-friendly beaches with access to hiking trails and the Lake View Beach picnic area with restrooms; also a great place to launch your kayak. All in Beverly Shores, IN 46304
4. Century of Progress – Constructed for the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair to display the future of housing. Lake Front Drive., between Dunbar Ave. and Derby Ave., Beverly Shores, IN
5. Central Avenue – A beach where you can enjoy a quiet walk and watch the bank swallows come and go from their nests in the dunes. Central Beach, Beverly Shores, IN 46301
6. Mount Baldy – Hike to the beach and witness this area’s largest moving dune. 101 Rice St (US 12) Michigan City



The Official NPS App is **HERE**

Download Now

Trusted Maps Works Offline Activities & Events

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Beaches and Swimming

Oh, what a joy to find a six by six foot patch of sand all to yourself! Within that square you might find solitude, fun, adventure, nature, or companionship. Whatever it is that you may be seeking, your two sandy parks, Indiana Dunes State Park and Indiana Dunes National Park have a beach for you.

If you are looking for a spot for your beach umbrella, or if you need a place that provides that little extra bit of safety with lifeguards, bathrooms and showers, ample parking and terrific views, we have a perfect beach for that.

There are plenty of places to park at Indiana Dunes. All beach parking is free with the exception of West Beach and the state park. For parking information please call: (219) 395-1003.

West Beach and Portage Lakefront have seasonal food vendors on location.

If you are coming from Chicago or South Bend, you can take the South Shore Line train and leave your car at home.

Beach-Going Tips List

- Bring lifejackets, sun block, lip balm, umbrella, bug spray, and drinking water.
- Pack lunches in sand proof containers.
- Do not bring glass containers.
- Some beaches have picnic shelters.
- Alcohol allowed at the national park beaches.
- Alcohol prohibited at the state park.

Beaches:

- West Beach
- Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk
- Porter Beach
- Kemil Beach
- State Park
- Dunbar Beach
- Lake View Beach
- Central Avenue Beach
- Mount Baldy Beach



PAUL KEMIEL

For more information, including tips on rip currents, scan the QR code here, or visit our Beach-Going & Swimming page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Biking

Discover much more than just sand dunes as you bike on an interconnected trail system that spans 37 miles across the entire length of the national park.

A wide variety of biking trails traverse the various habitats and cultural history of Indiana Dunes National Park. The varying lengths make it easy to choose the trail that's right for you. From a short easy ride to a challenging all-day trek, most of the trails are open all year, and the experience will change with each season.

Popular Biking Trails:

- **Calumet Bike Trail**
Gravel, 19.0 miles round trip, flat. WARNING - Poor trail conditions
- **Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail**
Paved, 3.6 miles round trip, paved, flat.
- **Porter Brickyard Bike Trail**
Paved, 7.0 miles round trip, some hills.
- **Prairie Duneland Bike Trail**
Paved, 22.4 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.
- **Marquette Bike Trail**
Paved, 4.6 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.
- **Oak Savannah Bike Trail**
Paved, 17.8 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our biking page at <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/biking.htm>



Birding

Located at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, the national park is an important feeding and resting area for migrating birds. Lake Michigan influences the migration patterns of bird species.

During the fall migration, southbound birds follow the north-south shoreline and are funneled into the Indiana Dunes. The large expanse of open water and miles of shoreline also attract large numbers of wintering birds.

Popular Birding Trails:

- **Paul H. Douglas Trail (Miller Woods)**
Featured hike: Moderate, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.
- **Cowles Bog Trail**
Featured hike: Moderate to rugged, 4.7 miles in length, hike time of 4 hours. Park at park headquarters when Cowles Bog parking lot is full.
- **Great Marsh Trail**
Featured hike: Easy, 1.3 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here or visit our birding page at <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/birdwatching.htm>



Camping

Dunewood Campground

Golf Wood Road & Dunewood Parkway, Beverly Shores, IN 46301

GPS Coordinates: 41.671786, -86.983985 (Decimal Degrees).

Campground consists of two loops containing 66 camp-sites (53 conventional drive-in sites and 13 walk/carry-in sites). Four sites are wheelchair accessible (numbers 15, 30, 41 and 55). Each loop has modern restrooms and hot/cold showers. Some sites have limited recreational vehicle length. Convenience stores and a gas station are located 1/4 mile

north of the campground at the intersection of U.S. Highway 12 and Broadway Ave. in the town of Beverly Shores. Campground closed during winter, November through March.

- \$25.00 per night camping fee (expanded amenity fee).
- All camp sites are reservable in advance at www.recreation.gov starting six months before the check-in date. Sites are reservable beginning on November 15 for the following camping season.
- 50% discount for the following America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes: Senior Annual, Senior Lifetime, and Access Passes.

- No discount for the following America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes: Annual (non-senior), Military, Volunteer, and 4th Grade.



For more information on camping and reservations, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Dunewood Campground page at recreation.gov



Paddling

Kayaking

Kayaking is increasingly popular on Lake Michigan since the inception of the Lake Michigan Water Trail and in area waterways like the Little Calumet River and Burns Waterway. Try a new challenge by kayaking the Little Calumet River Water Trail: East Branch. Launching hand-carried, non-motorized boats from any Indiana Dunes National Park beach is permitted with the exception of West Beach's lifeguarded swimming area (Friday of Memorial Day weekend through the Monday of Labor Day weekend). Lake Michigan's water conditions can quickly change from

calm to dangerous, so check the weather forecast and always use a certified personal flotation device.

Canoeing

Canoeing is also popular on the region's rivers and waterways, but is generally not recommended for Lake Michigan due to frequent windy conditions and large waves. Canoeing is popular on the Little Calumet River.

Experiencing the park from the vantage point of a canoe or a kayak gives you a new perspective. Doing so safely is paramount. Find out how, as well as other useful boating information by following the QR code right here.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our fishing and boating page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Horseback Riding

Glenwood Dunes

1475 North Brummitt Road
Chesterton, IN 46304

Glenwood Dunes Trails are the national park's only equestrian trails. Horseback riding is permitted on the specified portion of the Glenwood Dunes Trails from March 16 to December 14. However, if there is sufficient snow cover for cross-country skiing (3 inches or more) before December 15 or after March 15, the trail will remain closed to horseback

riding. Horses are prohibited in the winter to prevent accidents with cross-country skiers on the trail.

The parking lot is large enough for horse trailers. In the parking lot and picnic area, all horse manure must be bagged, removed from the area and disposed of appropriately. There is no horse rental concession. Horses are prohibited on all roads. Pets are prohibited at Glenwood Dunes year-round.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our horseback riding page at <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/horse.htm>



Hiking

Discover much more than just sand dunes as you hike through 14 distinct trail systems covering more than 50 miles of trails.

A wide variety of hiking trails traverse the various habitats and cultural history of Indiana Dunes National Park. The varying lengths and difficulty levels make it easy to choose the trail that's right for you. From a short easy stroll to a challenging all-day trek, most of the trails are open all year and the hiking experience will change with each season.

BONUS

ALL of our trail maps and hiking info can be found on pages 16-22.

Paper trail maps are available at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, and at each trailhead kiosk. Digital trail maps are also available on the park's website, and the new app mentioned throughout this guide.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Hiking page at <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/hiking.htm>



Fishing

Fishing the Little Calumet River during the summer steelhead run is a worthy challenge and the Portage Lakefront fishing pier offers lakeside fishing.

Fishing is allowed under federal, state and local laws. You need an Indiana fishing license

and a stamp if fishing for trout and salmon. Watch for drop-offs in creeks and along beaches.

Boaters must stay 500 feet away from marked swimming areas, even when beaching. Nearby communities offer boat launches. Personal motorized watercraft are prohibited.

To find out more about fishing at the park, follow our fishing page's weblinks.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our fishing and boating page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Arts in the Park

Artists and Photographers

Artists have been a part of the national parks since the 1870s. The famed Hudson River painters played a vital role in capturing the grand landscapes of the West. It was through their art that the public came to see these special places in America. Their surveys of the majestic landscapes motivated visitors to come witness the beauty for themselves.

The legacy of art continues with the Artist-in-Residence program at Indiana Dunes National Park. The images created by the artist

serve as great ambassadors for the inspiration, preservation, and stewardship of the dunes.

Artists who participate in this program receive residence for two weeks in exchange for a piece of framed art. The artists utilize park staff for their expertise and spend the days seeking their muse of choice as they explore the dunes.

If you would like to be considered to carry on this heritage visit scan the QR code seen here.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Artist-in-Residence page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)





Programs and Events

Our rangers offer a multitude of programs and events throughout the year. For program dates, times, and more information check out our Calendar page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU) or scan the QR code seen here to the right.



Weekly Hikes and Activities

Our rangers and partners conduct over 400 programs throughout the year.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, our programs are changing to follow the guidelines. We miss our visitors greatly and try to offer as many public gatherings as the safety principles allow.

Visit our calendar page for the latest updates to our program schedules.

State Park programs, visit <https://events.in.gov/dnr>



Scan to view web Calendar.



May 2022

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is an event designed to celebrate the dunes rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region.



Scan for this event's info.

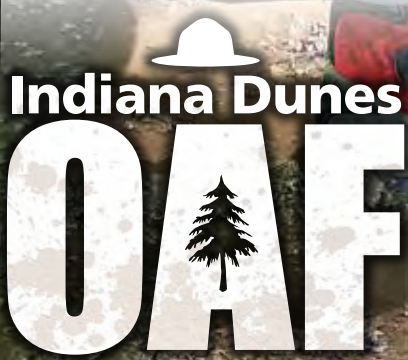


SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2021

Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival

The festival showcases the region's natural and cultural significance through activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, geocaching, photography, birding, orienteering, and more. It has events for everyone including families, beginners, experts, and those with limited mobility.

Make it an experience of outdoor adventures for everyone to enjoy! Some activities have a fee. Visit DunesOutdoorFestival.com



Scan to view OAF event online.



SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2021

Indiana Dunes Apple Festival

Celebrate autumn with an Apples Festival at historic Chellberg Farm. Fun is the theme of the weekend with the celebration of the all-American apple. Enjoy lots of fall seasonal activities such as tractor-pulled hayrides, a kid's corner with games and crafts, and even apple-chucking.



Scan to view apples event.



SEPTEMBER 2021

Century of Progress Talk and Tour

Join National Park Service rangers for a two-hour tour of five historic homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Advance reservation only. There is a fee. Visit IndianaLandmarks.org or call 317-822-7923.



Scan to learn more about this event.



MARCH 5-6 & 12-13, 2022

Maple Sugar Time

Enjoy a sweet taste of spring at Indiana Dunes National Park's annual Maple Sugar Time program.



Scan to visit Maple Sugar event.



15

Reasons to Save the Dunes



Can you find us in the park? Take a photo of any of these plants or animals and send it to us via Facebook.

These 15 animals and plants call the dunes home and are few examples of the amazing biodiversity found here. Some are common; others hard to find. Some are endangered; all are protected since they live in a national park. What can you do to help us protect their habitats?

1. Fowler's toad, *Anaxyrus fowleri*
2. Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*
3. Pitcher's thistle, *Cirsium pitcheri*
4. Jack pine, *Pinus banksiana*
5. Arctic bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
6. Beach pea, *Lathyrus japonicus*
7. Sandhill crane, *Grus canadensis*
8. Six-lined racerunner, *Aspidoscelis sexlineata*
9. Piping plover, *Charadrius melodus*
10. Fringed gentian, *Gentiana crinita*
11. Horned bladderwort, *Utricularia cornuta*
12. Prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia humifusa*
13. Hognose snake, *Heterodon platirhinos*
14. Nodding Lady's tresses, *Spiranthes cernua*
15. Red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Who am I?

I lay eggs on species of milkweed.

I transform from a caterpillar into a winged adult in a green shell called a chrysalis.

Like other insects, I have 6 legs, but only use my middle and hind legs.

I fly to Mexico as part of my life cycle.

I use my antennae to smell and my legs to taste.



Where am I?

Look in open grassy areas with wildflowers like Mnoké Prairie and Miller Woods at Indiana Dunes National Park. The caterpillars rest and eat on the underside of milkweed leaves. In the summer, adults sip nectar from wildflowers.

Read more about this creature at the park webpage: [NPS.gov/indu/learn/nature/15reasons.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/nature/15reasons.htm) or scan the QR code seen here.



Get a temporary tattoo of my picture at one of the park visitor centers or at programs where we talk about biodiversity!



Volunteer Spotlight

Jonathan Sebastian

Historian, Museum Curator, & Professor

The park was lucky enough to snag new volunteer Jon Sebastian, a professional historian, museum curator, and professor. For the past several months, Jon has been a regular face at both the visitor center and Douglas Center front desks. He has also been helping the park's historical architect, Judy Collins, research and compile the history of the newly restored Nelson house across from Chellberg Farm. Jon's expertise and enthusiasm has been a major asset to the park in the few short months he's been here and we hope he'll stick around for years to come.

Thank you, Jonathan!

For more information about volunteering, please visit our website or scan the QR code here.



Support Your Park

Donate to Indiana Dunes National Park.

Donations will be used to fund maintenance, resource management and educational projects at the national park.

Programs that bring children into parks, or parks to children, or ensure we know how to keep the plants, animals, and waters of the parks healthy are invigorated through the interest of people like you!

Donations to the National Park Service are tax-deductible.

To donate please visit our website or scan the QR code here.



Park History

Historic Sites in the Park

The dunes are more than a beach

Most visitors to the Indiana Dunes National Park only think of the Lake Michigan shoreline and the sand dunes. Did you know that most of our national parks tell the stories of history and not nature? This park also has much to offer a history buff.



Joseph Baily traded furs with the Potawatomi and Miami nations from 1822-1835 along the banks of the Little Calumet River at our Baily Homestead site. The fur trade of beaver was so successful that eventually every beaver, which were made into fancy top hats in Europe, were depleted. Today, the American beaver has returned to the dunes. Joseph ran his moderately successful fur trade post here and even made plans for Bailytown. He died before this dream could be realized. But his wife and daughters carried on here.

The Anders Chellberg family along with other Swedish immigrants, found employment through Joseph Baily's son-in-law. After buying 80 acres and then clearing the forest for farming, the Chellberg's built a house, chicken coop, windmill and a building to store their grain. Animals like horses, goats, chickens, pigs, cats and later cows helped the family to do work or were eaten. The farmhouse is open for special events such as Maple Sugar Time in March.

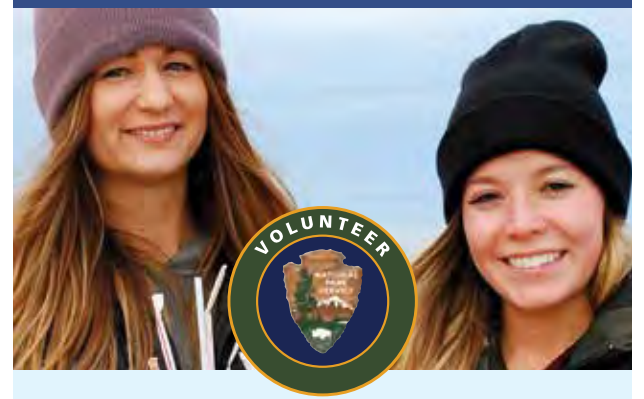


The World's Fair of 1933-34 in Chicago was themed a Century of Progress and indeed the five homes brought afterwards to the shoreline of Lake Michigan in what became Beverly Shores, Indiana, showed new amenities like garage door openers and dishwashers. Each of these five homes showed quite different architecture styles. These homes have been restored by lessees, managed through Indiana Landmarks, and once a year, reservations can be made to tour the interiors.



Hike the Little Calumet River trail to see the Baily Homestead and Chellberg Farm. Visit the east beaches to walk around the Century of Progress District.

Find Your Place With Us



Indiana Dunes National Park's volunteer program offers over 15 program opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities to serve alongside park employees. Most of our positions do not require a formal application. Simply contact us and we will find your place in the Park.

Opportunities Include:

- Artist-In-Residence
- Bark Rangers
- Beach Cruisers
- Corporate & Business
- Campground Host
- Citizen Science
- Drop-In Volunteering
- Railroad Crew
- River Crew
- Scout Programs
- Seasonal Volunteers
- Service Learning
- Special Events
- The Farm And Garden Crew
- Trail Crew

Contact Us:

**Main Office: 618 N Mineral Springs Rd
Porter, IN 46304**

Located near the Baily/Chellberg trailhead

Hours: Every Wednesday, 9am - 3pm

Phone: (219) 221-7098

Email: parkconnection@gmail.com



For more information, scan the QR code seen here or visit our volunteer page at NPS.gov/INDU.

Sacred Sands Audio Tour

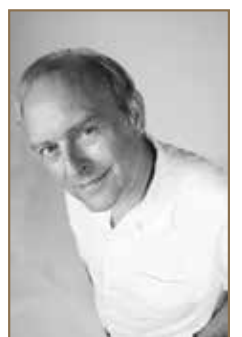
Sacred Sands: A Play For Voices evokes the human and natural histories of the Indiana Dunes and how a portion of this extraordinary landscape was preserved. Written by author and playwright David Hoppe, and inspired by J. Ronald Engel's 1983 book, "Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes," an audio version of the play has been commissioned by the Indiana Dunes National Park for use along the Portage Riverwalk Trail. Visitors to the park will be able to use their mobile phones to listen to portions of the play at ten designated sites as they traverse the trail. Park visitors can also listen to a continuous recording of the play, which has a running time of approximately 40 minutes.

Sacred Sands was first performed in 2016 at the Dunes Blowout: a Festival of Performance and Ecology, sponsored by Save the Dunes, at West Beach. The Dunes Blowout marked the centennial of the Dunes Pageant, a large-scale performance event that was intended to rally public support for creation of a dunes park. The reader's theater play was directed by John Green, former chair of the Theatre Department at Columbia College in Chicago, and featured a cast of performers drawn from

communities in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Dan Schaaf of Sudden Productions in Michigan City contributed original music.

The version of Sacred Sands that park visitors will be able to access via their mobile phones features the original Victory Dog cast and is directed by John Green. This version is a unique studio production, including additional original music by Dan Schaaf, who also served as production engineer. Recording took place in facilities made available by the Michigan City Public Library.

"The public enthusiasm and quality of community collaboration around Sacred Sands has been tremendous," says playwright Hoppe. "It seems this piece tells a story people are eager to hear. It affirms the abiding love and reverence they have for this rare and remarkable part of America."



Theater on the Trail

Education Programs in the Park

Indiana Dunes offers a plethora of educational opportunities.

Here are some suggestions of site-specific activities and places:

1. Paul H. Douglas for Environmental Education is located on 100 N Lake Street in Gary. Here you can come in and visit the in-house reptiles, fish and amphibians. You can also pick up a Jr. Ranger book that challenges you to go out into the park and find out more about it. Upon completion, bring your book back to the Douglas Center or the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for your badge.
2. Also located at the Douglas Center complex is the specialized Nature Play Zone, an area where there are no trails; just a large area to play in the sand, build a fort and discover.
3. The Indiana Dunes web site at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU) offers a series of virtual tours at many locations. Local geography, geology, flora and fauna are discussed. Scavenger hunts focusing on senses accompany these virtual tours.
4. Dunes Learning Center provides in-depth programming, summer camps, and teacher workshops. Visit [DunesLearningCenter.org](https://www.duneslearningcenter.org).
5. Schools and organizations can schedule a virtual or ranger-led program at 219-395-1885 or email christine_gerlach@nps.gov.

During this time of uncertain safety and disruption to our daily routine, nature is often the best place to heal.



The Digital Dunes



Take a Virtual Tour of the National Park

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/photosmultimedia/virtual-tours.htm> or scan the QR Code seen here.

Virtual Tours and StoryMaps

Connecting with the Indiana Dunes National Park online, your desktop computer, tablet, or mobile device, will help you to experience our sandy beaches, enchanting skylines, and delightful trails in a virtual way. Through our various social media accounts, you can quickly share your questions and past visits at the national park with each other. It is also where we try to keep you the most updated about new happenings in the park. Our website is the park's information hub, where we store details and alerts about what's happened, or what will be happening at the Indiana Dunes. Checking our website's news releases is also a great place to find out more about what's going on.

Would you like to take a hike without getting sand in your shoes? Our new virtual ranger led explorer hikes, located on our Virtual Tour page, are a great way to achieve this. These hikes include an educational component to help prospective visitors and students understand and prepare for what each location has in store. For instance, Mount Baldy is a large dune that's continually on the move and has a great beach to enjoy, but because of continual erosion, the





hike to the beach is not that easy. It's best to travel light for the trip to Mount Baldy Beach.

Our StoryMaps are another virtual way you can interactively enjoy and learn about the park. They feature walkthroughs of some of our more popular trails while telling a story about the features you can see along the way.

There are very informative videos that can be found at our accounts on Facebook, YouTube, and our website's "Photos & Multimedia" page under the "Learn About the Park" tab.

Do you have a head scratching question about the park that just won't go away? You can contact our park's staff, either through our website, or directly with Ranger Julie Larsen at Julianne_Larsen@nps.gov.

Current Indiana Dunes National Park Social Media Accounts:

-  Facebook: [IndianaDunesNPS](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS)
-  Flickr: [flickr.com/photos/indianadunes](https://www.flickr.com/photos/indianadunes)
-  Twitter: [IndianaDunesNPS](https://twitter.com/IndianaDunesNPS)
-  Instagram: [indianadunesnp](https://www.instagram.com/indianadunesnp)

WATCH OUR VIDEOS



Facebook Videos

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS/videos/> or scan the QR Code seen here.



YouTube Videos

Search "Indiana Dunes National Park Official YouTube Channel" or scan the QR Code seen here.

BARK Rangers

A nationwide National Park Service initiative to educate pet owners on responsible behavior began a few years ago and the Indiana Dunes National Park jumped on board shortly thereafter. Pet owners can pick up their one-page worksheet at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education or the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or print one from the bark ranger web page at www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/bark-ranger.htm

After a hike with your dog in the park and answering a few worksheet questions, simply return to the centers to receive a free brass tag with Indiana Dunes National Park logo for your dog. These tags are furnished by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes.



This program gets its name from the bark ranger rules:

- Bag your waste
- Always wear a leash
- Respect wildlife
- Know where you can go

Whenever you visit a national park, always ask if they have the Bark Ranger program as many do. If you are a frequent visitor, your dog can become a BARK ranger ambassador and sport a stylish Indiana Dunes scarf. These dogs and owners are tasked with roving the trails and beaches where dogs are allowed and informing visitors of the BARK ranger rules and program.



To see where dogs are allowed, check out our hiking guide on page 17.



Indiana Dunes Visitor Center



1 Paul H. Douglas Nature Center



2 Marquette Park (City of Gary park)



3 West Beach & Bathhouse (Includes Seasonal Fee)



4 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk



5 Cowles Bog Beach



6 Bailly Homestead



7 Chellberg Farm



8 Porter Beach



9 Indiana Dunes State Park/Beach



10 State Park Nature Center



11 Kemil Beach



12 Century of Progress Homes



13 Dunbar Beach



14 Lake View Beach



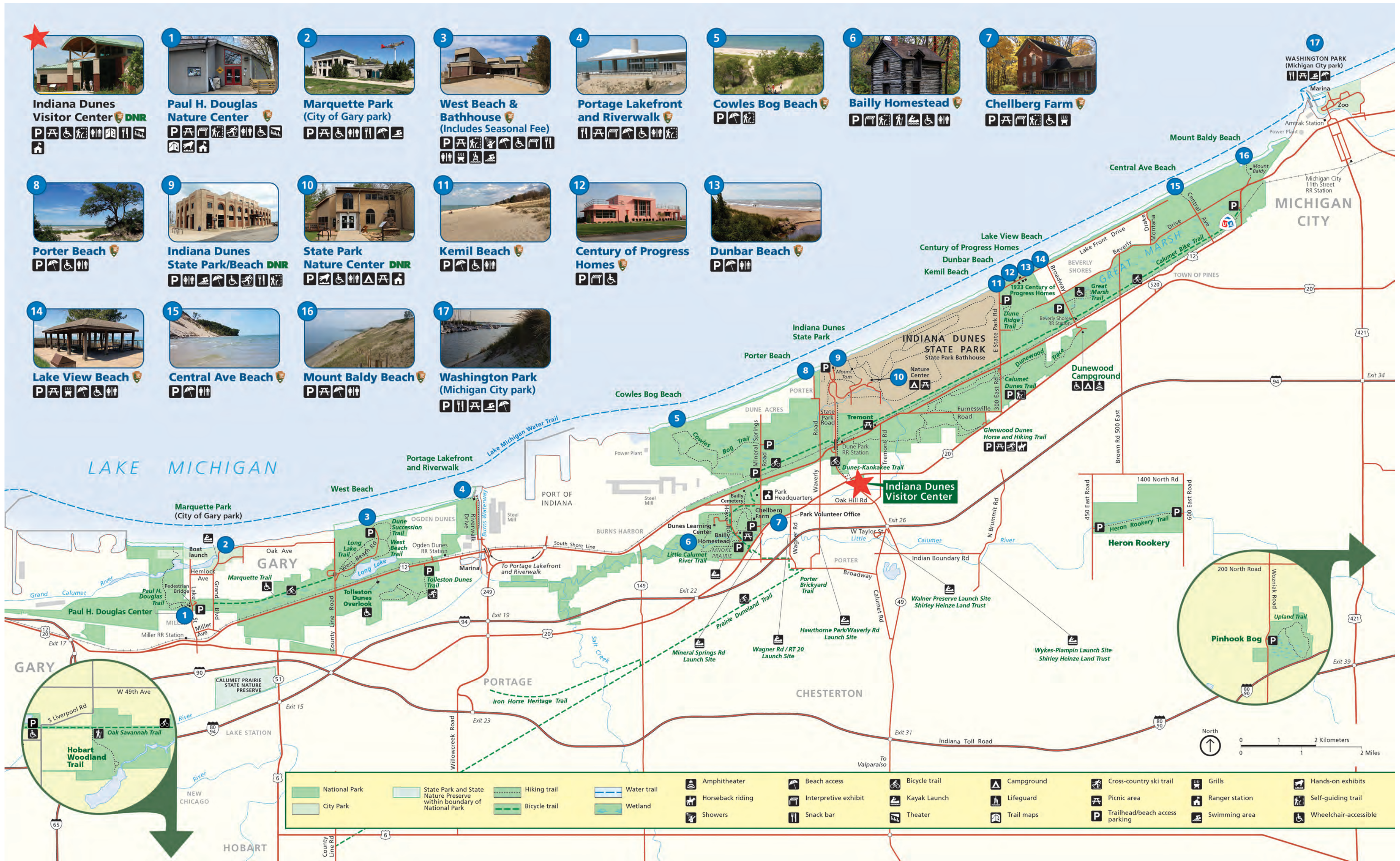
15 Central Ave Beach



16 Mount Baldy Beach



17 Washington Park (Michigan City park)



BEACH PARKING HOTLINE 219-395-1003

655 West Beach Gary, IN 46403 Parking Spaces	822 Indiana Dunes State Park Chesterton, IN 46304 Parking Spaces	25 Lake View Beach Beverly Shores, IN 46301 Parking Spaces
97 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Portage, IN 46368 Parking Spaces	96 Kemil Beach Beverly Shores, IN 46301 Parking Spaces	68 Central Ave Beach Beverly Shores, IN 46301 Parking Spaces
65 Porter Beach Porter, IN 46304 Parking Spaces	24 Dunbar Beach Beverly Shores, IN 46301 Parking Spaces	89 Mount Baldy Beach Michigan City, IN 46360 Parking Spaces

For more information, including beach conditions and safety, scan the QR code seen here.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

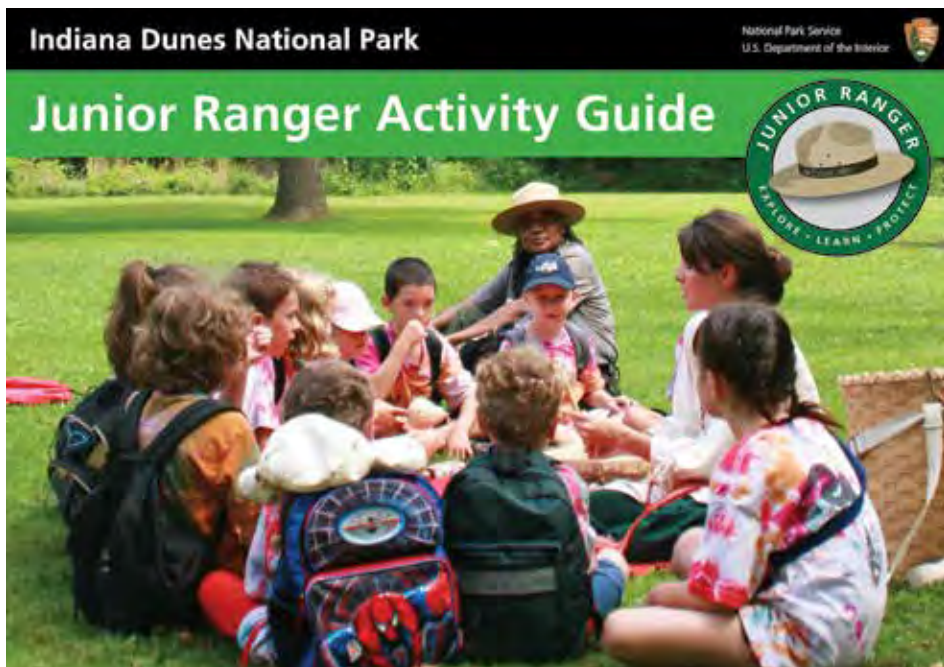
- Lifeguards and entrance fees only at West Beach and State Park. Attending lifeguards times and days vary. All other beaches, swim at your own risk.
- Open 6:00 am - 11:00 pm unless otherwise posted.
- Please park in designated parking areas only. Parking along roadways is prohibited.
- Smaller parking lots fill before 9:00 am during the summer season. Arrive early to avoid traffic congestion.
- Do NOT park in the Century of Progress parking area to access the beach. Parking is limited to 15 minutes at this location.

The Official NPS App is **HERE**

Download Now

Search "National Park Service" in the app stores or use the QR code.

Become a Junior Ranger Today!



The Junior Ranger Activity Guide will open your eyes to the Indiana Dunes as they have never been before. The guidebook can be picked up at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. When you complete the Junior Ranger Activity Guide, bring it back to the either center to the receive a Junior Ranger badge.

In addition to the larger Junior Ranger Activity Guide, Indiana Dunes has a Beachcomber Activity Sheet for families enjoying the beach for the day. You can pick up a Beachcomber activity sheet the at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center.

You can also download a printable version of the Junior Ranger Activity Guide and the Beachcomber Activity sheet on our website.

Scan the QR code for fun things to do while exploring the park or check out "Be a Junior Ranger" at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU). (BONUS: The guide and activity sheet can now be downloaded.)



Family Nature Backpacks for Loan

With so much e-learning taking place now, Indiana Dunes National Park is providing a way for families to keep in touch with nature. Nature Exploration Backpacks are now available for daily checkout at the national park's Paul H. Douglas Center and the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

The backpacks contain scientific instruments like binoculars and bug boxes that can be used to explore the oak savanna and pond habitats on the trail around the Douglas Center. Families can use other items such as guides, books, and nature games to instigate play and creativity on their hike. The backpacks are an excellent tool for families to learn together and work on their science lessons while enjoying the park. Kids of different ages will find fun things to do for their specific grade level.

There is no need to pre-register as the backpacks are loaned out on a first-come, first- served basis, at no charge. Families are encouraged to explore the trails around the Douglas Center and the Nature Play Zone with the backpacks.

To prevent the spread of disease, each backpack and all of its contents, is thoroughly sanitized before it is made available for checkout. The address of the Douglas Center and the Visitor Center can be found on the front page of this guide under "National Park Information." For more information on this or other programs at Indiana Dunes National Park, call 219-395-1824 or visit our website at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU).



Eastern National Bookstore



Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors of America's national parks.

Stop by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and check out the park's official gift shop. Books, T-shirts, toys, and National Park souvenirs are available. Also, get your "Passport to the National Parks" stamped at the bookstore.

Eastern National, a nonprofit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Park to support interpretive and educational activities and publications.

Scout Programs

Some of the best Scouting adventures happen in National Park Service sites like Indiana Dunes. The National Park Service and the Scouts have been close partners for years, sharing a commitment to educate young people about camping, the outdoors, and the environment.

Girl and Boy Scout groups can venture to NPS sites to complete advancement requirements, perform service projects, and have a ton of fun. Here at the Indiana Dunes earning your Scout Ranger Patch is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Scout Ranger patches are earned by participating in one educational, one Junior Ranger, and one Drop-in Volunteering program. For more information on our Scouts program, visit the park's website mentioned at the bottom of the page.



For more information about volunteering, please visit our website at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU) or scan the QR code here.



Accessibility

Access for All

Working with partners and staff, we have made great strides in recent years in getting more accessible walking routes and other services for people with different kinds of abilities. Here are some new resources to use in the park.

Mobility assistance devices: Working with Dunes Learning Center and VOCART, the park purchased several wheelchair assistance devices. This innovative and rugged machine allows wheelchair users to be transported over rugged terrain, gravel, grass, and even sand. The device is motorized and operated with a joystick attached to the user's chair. The Freedom Trax is available at the Douglas Center during regular business hours for use on portions of the Miller Woods Trail. To reserve the device, contact the Douglas Center at 219-395-1824.

A second all-terrain wheelchair for youth is also available at the Douglas Center. This chair must be pushed or pulled. It has an extra long handle and a rope to assist the user in navigating rougher trails. It can be reserved by contacting the Douglas Center at the number above.

For beach access, folks with mobility impairments can use a specially designed chair with large wheels that moves over sand and into the water easily and safely. Two chairs are available for use during the summer season at West Beach. Visitors can request their use at the front entrance booth or through one of the park's lifeguards.

For more information about accessibility equipment at the park please visit scan the QR code seen here or visit the accessibility page at NPS.gov/INDU



Access for All

Whether you use a wheelchair, are hard of hearing, or have limitations with sight, we have a variety of services and equipment available to increase accessibility for all visitors. Check out the table below or our website. Call 219-395-1824 with questions and to check out one of the assistive devices listed below.

Mobility	Where to use
Two Seated e-Bicycle – battery-operated motor allows two people to ride bike trails and nearby streets. One user pedals, and the other can be a passenger.	Paul H. Douglas Center; make appointment at 219-395-1824
Zoom Chair – motorized, 4 wheels, single person chair that can be used on moderate trails.	
Youth Wheel Chair for rougher terrain. This chair must be pushed or pulled.	
Beach Wheelchair – Just ask staff at entrance gate for use. (Memorial Day through Labor Day)	West Beach
Freedom Trax – A motorized wheelchair that is all-terrain and has an upright chair on ATV wheels. The electrical track is steered by a joystick.	Volunteer Program Office at Bailly/Chellberg; available on Wednesdays by appointment. 219-221-7098
Action Trac Chair – motorized, 4 wheels, single person chair that can be used on trails and bike trails	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center; make appointment at 219-395-1882
Hearing	
Ubi-Duo device—visitors can type questions on a shared screen	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Closed Caption Park Film	
Sight	
Sacred Sands Audio Tour—phone number on medallions	Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk
Audio-described Version of Park Film	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Douglas Center
Great Trails and Accessible Views	
A predominantly cement walkway and provides a nice path on nearby terrain. The pier is designed for universal access and is a great spot for bird watching.	Portage Lake Front and Riverwalk
Fully accessible walking and allows visitors to view two marsh areas, picnic area, and a play zone.	Paul H. Douglas Center
Provides a ramp down to the sand and has easy access to restrooms and picnic shelters.	West Beach
Allows visitors of all abilities to enjoy great views of the lake and accessible picnic shelters.	Lake View
Fully accessible walking and biking path from the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to the Indiana Dunes State Park entrance.	Kankakee Sands Trail; park at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
*Equipment made possible in coordination with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, and VOCART.	



Winter Fun: Hit the Trails Planker!

Step into those skis, inhale that brisk fresh air, listen to the crunch of snow under stride, and feel the stress lift as you make tracks in the snow. Cross-country skiing is a wonderful way to visit the national park and get some exercise.

Let's face it, the local ski days are really hit or miss, and the opportunities for skiing are limited by shortened daylight, snowfall, safe driving conditions, and availability to recreate. So, when ski weather conditions and availability connect, it's truly a magical chance to embrace the trails and have some fun.



If you're not up for a vigorous ski, just cruise the trails at a pace you enjoy while taking in the beautiful scenery. The trails at Miller Woods have great options. Skiers can follow the gentle undulating slopes of the black oak savanna or follow the old railroad bed for a flat less strenuous journey. The old railroad bed offers spectacular elevated views of the rolling hills and habitats. Visitors can even check out ski equipment or snowshoes for

FREE at the Douglas Center which is the gateway to Miller Woods! If you have your own skis, you may want to try the Tolleston or Glenwood Dune Trails for a more challenging course. These trails offer a greater chance for solitude and steeper slopes. Tolleston Dune Trail has 127 feet of elevation gain and 2.9 miles of trail, while Glenwood Dune Trail has 129 feet of elevation gain and 6.8 miles of trail. There may even be a fire and hot chocolate waiting for you at the warming hut once you complete your adventure. Check with the visitor center to see if staff are working at the warming hut before you head out.

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If you have your own skis, you may want to try the Tolleston or Glenwood Dune Trails for a more challenging course. These trails offer a greater chance for solitude and steeper slopes. Tolleston Dune Trail has 127 feet of elevation gain and 2.9 miles of trail, while Glenwood Dune Trail has 129 feet of elevation gain and 6.8 miles of trail. There may even be a fire and hot chocolate waiting for you at the warming hut once you complete your adventure. Check with the visitor center to see if staff are working at the warming hut before you head out.

Please note that these trails are not groomed and touring or backcountry skis are recommended. Ski conditions are best with four or more inches of snow. Be safe, dress in layers, stay hydrated, let people know where you're going, have communications and an emergency plan in place.

3

Ski Trails

Paul H. Douglas Trail
Glenwood Dune Trail
Tolleston Dune Trail



Ski Conditions

219 395-1882 219 395-1824



Hiking

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

Hiking Spotlights

What is the Diana Dunes Dare?

It is a hiking challenge comparable to the 3 Dune Challenge!

It is a ghost story re-told!

We are daring you to be like the dune advocate Alice Mabel Gray, also known as Diana of the Dunes. She hiked and lived in the dunes on her own in an abandoned shanty for over 9 years in the early 1900s and took an interest in the history, ecology, and preservation of this place.

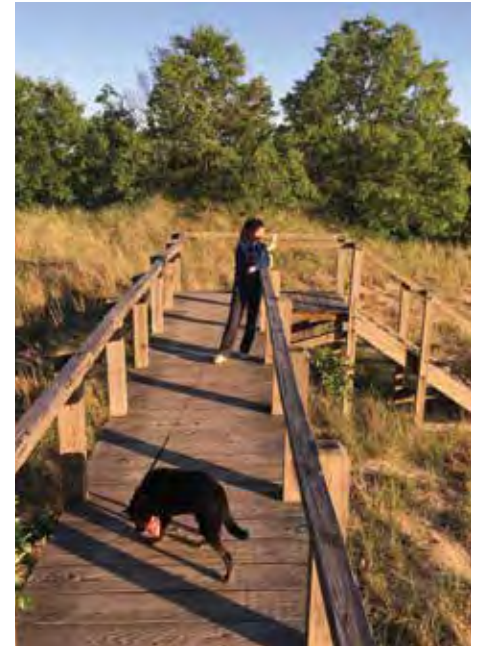
Starting from the parking lot at West Beach, hikers can climb the newly named Diana's Dune. Count the steps along the way! At the first wayside, you can pause on top of the great staircase and let the breeze surround you as it heightens your senses. At this boundless vantage point you can choose your view. You can gaze 36 miles into

the distance to see the towering might of Chicago, the birthplace of our gallant advocate Alice. You can choose to see the abrupt line of contrast of where industry and nature collide. Or you can turn your regard to the delicate, diverse rolling beauty of the dune succession and its fragility.

What is the 3 Dune Challenge? DNR

Go Extreme!

If your idea of fun is running up the stairs of a skyscraper or doing a marathon, try climbing 552 vertical feet of sand and stairs. The 3 Dune Challenge is Indiana's best test of physical strength and endurance. Compete against your own "PB" while running the equivalent of 55 stories up three towering dunes. And if you still want more, give it your all by taking the flip trip—running back up the dunes in reverse to the starting point.



For more information about the Diana Dunes Dare or the 3 Dune Challenge, scan the QR code seen here or visit NPS.gov/INDU



Geocaching



Join the Fun!

Geocaching is the outdoor adventure where players (called geocachers) use a Geocaching app or GPS to find hidden containers around the world. Visit Geocaching.com or download the free official Geocaching app to begin this fun activity.

Here are our available Geocaches and EarthCaches... more to come!

- **Two Dunes Walk Into A Sandbar**
Location: Mount Baldy Beach Trail
- **Singing Sands**
Locations: Kemil Beach, Dune Ridge Trail, Calumet Dunes Trail, and Glenwood Dunes Trail
- **Maple Geocache Challenge**
Locations: Chellberg Farm / Bailly Homestead Trail

To get started today, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Geocache page at NPS.gov/INDU.



Boat Tours



All aboard!

Jump on board to join a park ranger for a guided two-hour boat tour on Lake Michigan. The tour boats are operated by Harbor Country Adventures and some tours feature a ranger. The tour offers a unique perspective of Mount Baldy and the Indiana Dunes National Park shoreline.

Ranger led boat tours are scheduled from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:00 am, and Sundays at 2:00 pm. There is a fee and reservations are required. Visit the website below for details and reservations.

For details and reservations, scan the QR code seen here, or visit harborcountryadventures.com.



COVID Safety

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

When venturing outdoors, keep recreation to members of your household. Provide others with plenty of room in accordance with CDC social distancing guidelines of six feet, and cover your nose and mouth if safe social distancing is not possible.

KEEP IT WITH YOU

Brought something in? It's your responsibility to take it out. Trash pickup and restrooms will continue to be limited. Please follow the "leave no trace" rule to keep your park clean and open!

MASK ON

Under state and federal mandates: All Indiana residents and visitors are required to wear face masks in all federal buildings and outdoors when social distancing is not possible.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Park Status (COVID-19) page at NPS.gov/INDU





INSECT SAFETY

Insect Bites and Stings:

- Ticks are present year-round. Take precautionary measures to prevent bites.
- Use insect repellent
- Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts
- Tuck pants into your shoes
- Avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk to help prevent mosquito bites
- Avoid loose and bright print clothing to help prevent yellow jackets and other stinging insects.
- Do not wear sandals while hiking; avoid wearing perfume, lotion and hairspray.
- Insect repellents DO NOT work against stinging insects.
- If stung, seek medical attention if symptoms of systemic allergic reaction.

SUMMER SAFETY

Be Cool This Summer:

- Remember to bring plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Stay in the shade when possible to prevent heat stroke.
- Remember sunblock to protect your skin.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.

WATER SAFETY

- Don't swim when the waves are high.
- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD).
- Keep your children in sight at all times, and small children should be within reach when in the water.
- Watch for drop-offs and holes in the shoreline.
- Never swim alone.
- Don't swim near piers or man-made structures in the water.
- Be aware of water quality. Natural and man-made sources of contamination can affect water quality. If the water looks dirty, it probably is.
- Contact the park's info line for beach conditions: 219-395-1882.

WINTER SAFETY

Stay off the shelf ice!

- Walking on shelf ice is extremely hazardous.
- Dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes to prevent frostbite.
- Do not sled (except for in designated areas, like the one at West Beach).

NATIONAL PARK HIKING GUIDE

HIKE	HIKE LENGTH	HIKE TIME	TRAIL SURFACE	
EASY				
Calumet Dunes Trail	0.5 miles	20 minutes	Paved	*
Great Marsh Trail	1.3 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt and grass with some gravel. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	*
Heron Rookery Trail	3.3 miles	1.5 to 2 hours	Packed dirt and clay. Trail can be very slippery and muddy.	
Hobart Prairie Grove Trails	2.2 miles	1.5 hours	Packed dirt and clay. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	*
Marquette Bike Trail	4.6 miles	30 minutes	Gravel	
Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): <u>Center loop</u>	0.9 miles	30 minutes	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand and accessible boardwalk.	*
Pinhook Bog Trail* *Ranger-led tours only	0.9 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt. Section of floating boardwalk that submerges when walked on. Wear waterproof boots.	
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Trail	0.9 miles	45 minutes	Paved with some sections of boardwalk and one set of stairs.	*
MODERATE				
Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm Trail: <u>Inner Loop</u>	1.1 miles	45 minutes	Packed soil with wood chips in places; several sets of stairs. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Dune Ridge Trail	0.7 miles	30 minutes to 1 hour	Mixture of loose sand and packed dirt. Some elevation changes.	
Glenwood Dunes Trails (Horseback riding allowed)	Less than 1 mile to 6.8 miles	Less than 1 hour to 4 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of sand or boardwalk. NO PETS*	
Little Calumet River and Mnoké Prairie Trails: <u>Outer Loop (Bailly/ Chellberg)</u>	3.4 miles	2.5 hours	Packed soil with wood chips in places; several sets of stairs. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): <u>Beach trail</u>	3.4 miles	2 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand. Some elevation changes.	
Tolleston Dunes Trail	2.9 miles	2 hours	Sand with some sections of packed soil, gravel, and boardwalk. Boardwalk can be submerged.	
Upland Trail (at Pinhook Bog)	2.1 miles	1.5 hours	Packed dirt. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
MODERATE to RUGGED				
Cowles Bog Trail	4.7 miles	4 hours	Mixture of loose sand and packed dirt. Some elevation changes.	
Mount Baldy Beach Trail (Summit Trail CLOSED: Ranger-led tours only)	0.75 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt with sections of loose sand. Use caution when hiking to beach. Obey signs. Steep slope.	
West Beach Trails: Dune Succession (Loop 1): West Beach (Loop 2): Long Lake (Loop 3):	3-loop: 3.4 miles total 0.9 miles 1.2 miles 2.2 miles	45 minutes to 2.5 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand. Some elevation changes and long staircases on Dunes Succession Loop.	*



* Calumet Dunes Trail: Paved but slopes exceed ADA limits. Trail is wheelchair accessible with proper support. Restrooms are accessible. Great Marsh Trail: The main trail is not wheelchair accessible. There is a paved wheelchair accessible trail to an overlook of the marsh from the north parking lot. Hobart Prairie Grove Trails: The Oak Savannah Bike Trail (leading to the Hobart Prairie Grove Trail) is paved and wheelchair accessible. Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): Trails are not wheelchair accessible. The Paul H. Douglas Center, restrooms, and the walkway from the building to the marsh boardwalk and picnic tables are all wheelchair accessible.



ALL PETS: MUST be on a leash (6' or shorter).
* West Beach Trails: Pets are prohibited in the lifeguard swimming area in the summer. Glenwood Dunes Trails: Pets are prohibited on the equestrian portion of the trail for safety. Permitted elsewhere on a leash (6' or shorter). All pet excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of in trash receptacles.



Do Not Risk Your Life!



Swim Safely



Wear Tick Repellent



Stay On Marked Trails



Maps Key

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Beach Access | Cross Country Skiing | Interpretive exhibit | Sheltered Picnic Area | Wetlands |
| Bench | Emergency telephone | Parking | Showers | National Park |
| Bicycle Trail | Fishing | Picnic Area | Stairs | City Park |
| Birding/Wildlife viewing | Food service | Ranger Station | Wheelchair Accessible | Park Lot |
| Campground | Hiking / Trailhead | Restrooms | Boardwalk | Trail |
| Canoe access | Horseback riding | Shelter | Bridge | |
| | | | Train Tracks | |

Paul H. Douglas Trail (Miller Woods)

The Paul H. Douglas Trail in Miller Woods winds through several habitats including wetlands, globally rare black oak savanna, open dunes and beach. The views of the lake and the dunes are incredible. The oak savanna's native grasses and wildflowers, including lupine, thrive in the sunlight and open forest floor. Please stay single file on the narrow trail to protect yourself from the abundant poison ivy along the trail edges as well as the fragile lupine habitat.

This featured hike is essentially an out and back trail. Starting from the Paul H. Douglas Center, take the trail north or counter-clockwise around the wetland complex. Look for wildlife including beavers. The trail will run west along the top of the wetland. At the trail junction, take a right and follow the trail to the north. The trail from this point is an out and back to the beach. The trail features beautiful scenery with small interdunal ponds nestled among oak savanna covered dunes teeming with wildflowers in the spring and summer.

Once you cross the bridge over the Grand Calumet River, the landscape changes dramatically into a world of towering sand dunes. The trail winds around and through the dunes all the way the shore of Lake Michigan. After enjoying the lake, follow the trail back to the junction at the wetland complex. Follow the trail to the right along the wetland back to the Paul H. Douglas Center.

The trail surface is mostly sand with some sections of packed soil, gravel or boardwalk. The hike will take longer than you think due the loose footing of walking in the sand. The trail starts in relative shade but ends in the full sun. Please bring plenty of water, sun protection and dress in layers. The weather on the beach can be dramatically colder or hotter than in the woods.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Paul H. Douglas Trail is a partnership between the National Park Service and the City of Gary, Indiana.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Fall Colors, Lake, River, Swimming, Views, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Dunes, and Lake Michigan

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
100 North Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.606466, -87.268527



Marquette Bike Trail

TRAIL FEATURES:

Ride Distance: 4.6 miles round trip, 9 feet of elevation gain, 0% average grade, 1% maximum grade. Ride Time: 30 minutes

This rail trail uses the roadbed of a former Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad line. There are no restrooms or potable water source available, so come prepared.

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots: East Trailhead: 540 North County Line Road, Gary, IN 46403. West Trailhead: No parking available.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

East Trailhead: 41.614961, -87.220661
West Trailhead: 41.606822, -87.261051





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

Hobart Woodland Trail

Hobart Prairie Grove consists of forested ravines and a portion of scenic Lake George, which is part of the Deep River. The Hobart Woodland trail offers views of forest ravines and has an overlook of Lake George. The Oak Savannah rail trail runs through the Hobart Prairie Grove and is a great place for biking, pushing a stroller or just hiking to relax and improve your health.

TRAIL FEATURES: Fall Colors, Views, Lake, River, Wildlife

HIKE DETAILS: Easy, 2.2 miles in length, hike time of 1.5 hours.

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

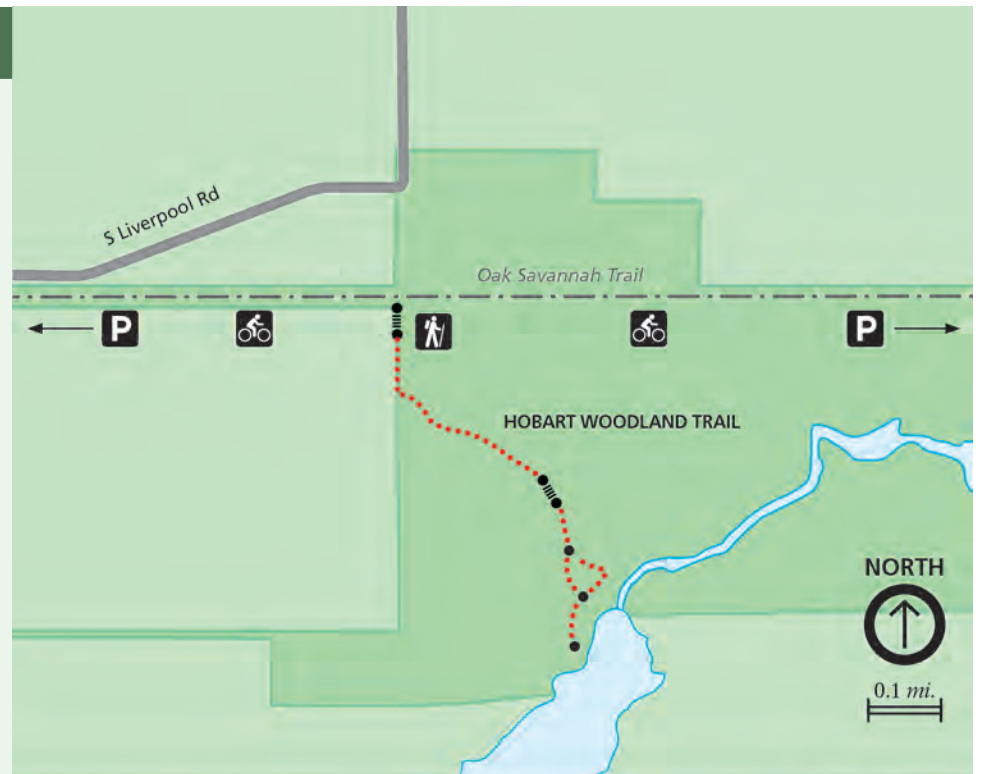
Main Lot (west end): Robinson Lake Park, 5227 South Liverpool Road, Hobart, IN 46342

Alternate Street Parking (east end): 851 South Wisconsin Street, Hobart, IN 46342

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main (west): 41.523898, -87.307101 (Decimal Degrees)

Alternate (east): 41.523683, -87.269201 (Decimal Degrees)



West Beach Trails

West Beach offers a great combination of hiking and relaxing at the beach. The trails are varied and encompass many habitats. There are great views from the top of the Dune Succession Trail stairs, a beautiful pinery of jack pines, birding opportunities along Long Lake and secluded sections of forest. After hiking, relax and swim at the beach.

HIKE DETAILS:
3-Loop Hike: Moderate to rugged, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2.5 hours.
Dunes Succession Hike: Rugged, 0.9 mile in length, hike time of 45 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Birding, Lake Michigan, Swimming, Views, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Diana's Dune

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

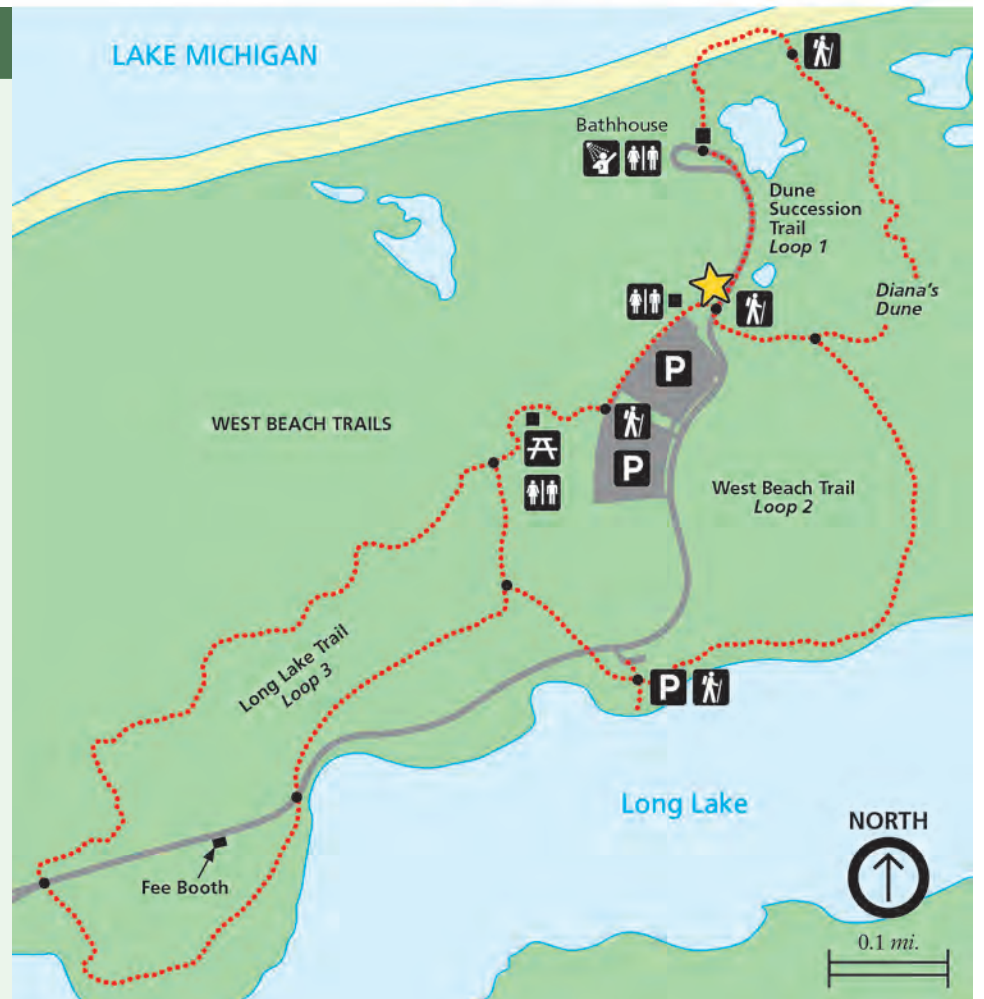
376 North County Line Road, Gary, IN 46403

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.622934, -87.207747 (Decimal Degrees)

FEES:

A parking fee is collected daily from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through the Monday of Labor Day weekend, 8:00 am to as late as 7:00 pm Central Time. \$6.00 per car or motorcycle per day. \$30.00 per bus per day.



★ TRIP IDEA: Hike the Dunes Succession Trail while discovering the Diana Dunes Dare.



Starting from the parking lot, hikers can climb the newly named Diana's Dune. Count the steps along the way! At the first wayside, you can pause on top of the great staircase and let the breeze surround you as it heightens your senses. At the second wayside, you can get nestled on a bench in the dune swale as you contemplate the dynamic and complex landscape. Along the beach to the bathhouse - Listen to the rhythms of the waves and let yourself sync with nature.

Learn more about dune succession by visiting West Beach trail page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU).

Tolleston Dunes Trail

This hike winds amid varied habitats ranging from oak savanna to wetlands and plants such as prickly pear cactus, butterfly weed and lupines.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate, 2.9 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Fall Colors, Wildflowers, Wildlife

GETTING THERE: Trailhead Parking Lots

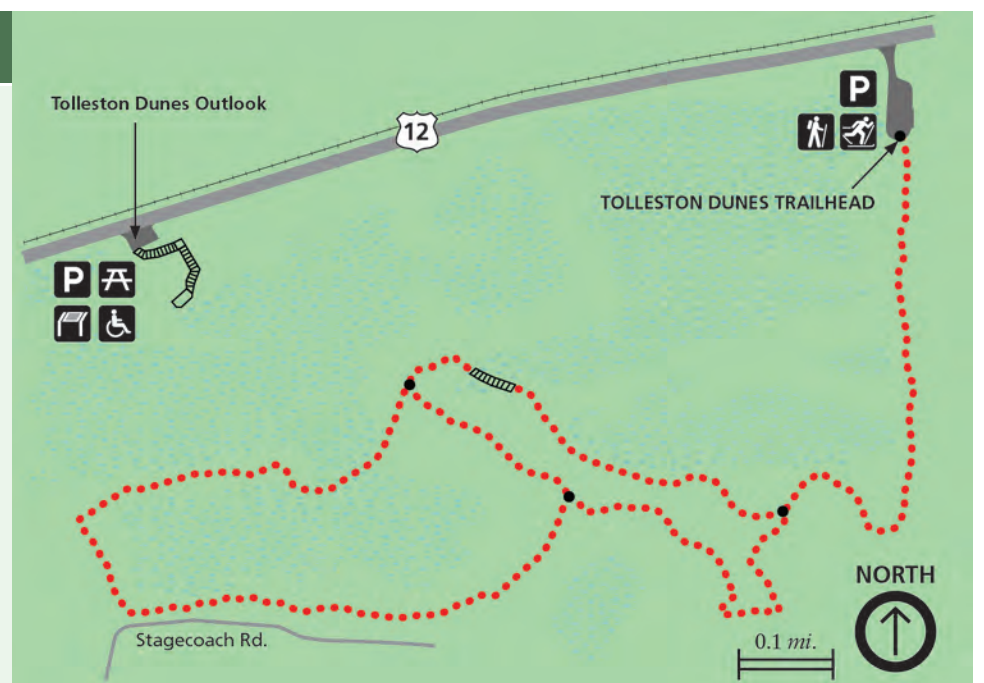
Main Lot: 5800 U.S. Highway 12, Ogden Dunes, IN 46368

Marsh Overlook Lot: 5634 U.S. Highway 12, Portage, IN 46368

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main: 41.615056, -87.192889 (Decimal Degrees)

Marsh Overlook: 41.613499, -87.206679 (Decimal Degrees)





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Trail

This popular location is a great place to view the ever-changing seasons along Lake Michigan and watch dramatic weather and clouds build over the lake. It's an easy location to watch for migrating birds in the spring and summer, and observe shelf ice that forms along the beach edge in the winter. Visitors can enjoy easy access to the lakefront and trails that highlight dune succession. A 3,500 square foot public pavilion includes restrooms, a seasonal snack bar and a glass walled classroom/meeting space.

This featured hike is a loop style trail and is mostly wheelchair accessible. Starting at the pavilion, pick up the trail heading south on the east side of the road off the traffic circle. The trail will wind through restored dune habitat. After approximately a half a mile, the trail crosses the road, goes down a set of stairs, and heads back north on a boardwalk along the Burns Waterway to the pavilion.

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 0.9 miles in length, hike time of 45 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Lake Michigan, Views, Birding, Swimming, Fishing

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
100 Riverwalk Road, Portage, IN 46368

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.630994, -87.178383 (Decimal Degrees)



Cowles Bog Trail

This hike highlights an area of such outstanding plant diversity that it was designated as a National Natural Landmark. Explore several distinct habitats including ponds, marshes, swamps, black oak savannas and beaches.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate to rugged, 4.7 miles in length, hike time of 4 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Fall Colors, Lake, Views, Wildlife, Lake Michigan, Bog life

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
Main Lot (north): 1450 North Mineral Springs Road, Dune Acres, IN 46304 (Look for the gravel entrance road on the right just before the town guardhouse)

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main (north): 41.645191, -87.084633 (Decimal Degrees)
Greenbelt (south): 41.636898, -87.087185 (Decimal Degrees)



Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm, Little Calumet River and Mnoké Prairie Trails

Hike through a forest dominated by maple, beech, basswood and oak trees. Follow a stretch of the Little Calumet River and explore the recently restored Mnoké Prairie. Explore the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm. There are 3 covered reservable picnic shelters near the parking lot that are wheelchair accessible (recreation.gov).

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy to moderate, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2.5 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

River Crossings, Historic Homes, Birding, Fall Colors, Wildflowers and Wildlife, Mnoké Prairie, Little Calumet River Bridge, and Farm animals

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
North of U.S. Highway 20 on Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.624679, -87.089502 (Decimal Degrees)



★ TRIP IDEA: Paddle the East Branch of the Little Calumet River Water Trail

This is another waterway which requires some skill and portage abilities. For safety, please plan ahead. Scan the QR Code for more information or visit NPS.gov/INDU.



★ TRIP IDEA: Bike along the Porter Brickyard Trail

National park portion of trail passes historic landmarks, a river, woodlands, and marshes. Ride distance: 7 miles round trip, paved. Scan for more information or visit NPS.gov/INDU.





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

Glenwood Dunes Trails

This extensive trail system features interconnected loops in mature woods ranging from less than a mile to nearly 15 miles and is popular with hikers, runners, horseback riders and cross-country skiers.

HIKE DETAILS: Glenwood Dunes Trail information ONLY
Moderate, 6.8 miles in length, hike time of 4 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:
Fall Colors, Wildlife

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot

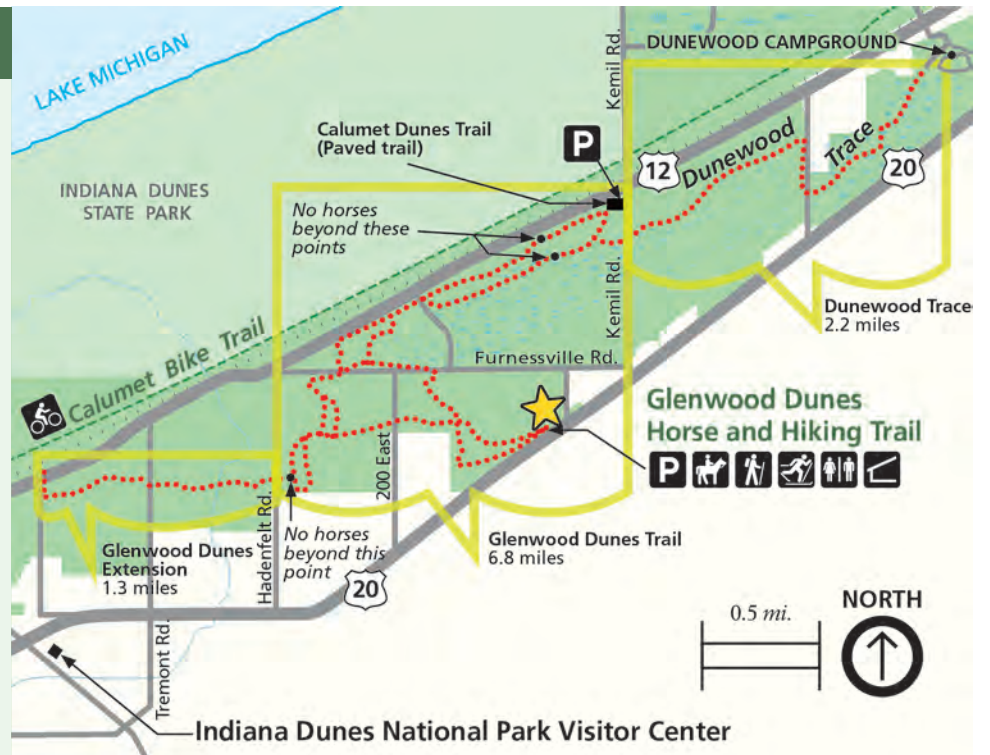
Glenwood Dunes Lot (main): 1475 North Brummitt Road, Chesterton, IN 46304

Calumet Dunes Lot (alternate): 1596 North Kemil Road (300E), Chesterton, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main: 41.648245, -87.015382 (Decimal Degrees)

Alternate: 41.661836, -87.010109 (Decimal Degrees)



★ TRIP IDEA: Horseback Riding at Glenwood Dunes

Glenwood Dunes Trails are the national park's only equestrian trails. Horseback riding is permitted on the specified portion of the Glenwood Dunes Trails from March 16 to December 14. Scan the QR Code for more information or visit NPS.gov/INDU. No rentals. You must provide your own horse.



Calumet Dunes Trail

This short hike on a paved trail features the Calumet Dunes ridge, which was the shoreline of Lake Michigan over 12,000 years ago.

This featured hike is a loop trail and is wheelchair accessible. Starting at the parking lot trailhead, hike the trail loop in a counter-clockwise direction. The path is easy to follow. Please be aware of trail junctions. Stick to the left at each junction. The first two junctions are the north and south entrances to the Glenwood Dunes Trail system. Note that no pets are allowed on this portion of the Glenwood Dunes Trail. The last trail junction is with the Dunewood Trace Campground Trail. Again, stay left. The trail ends on the opposite side of the building from where you started. Walk around to the front of the building.

The trail is paved but slopes exceed ADA limits; however, it is still wheelchair accessible with proper support. The restrooms are accessible.

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 0.5 miles in length, hike time of 20 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Fall Colors, Wildlife

GETTING THERE:

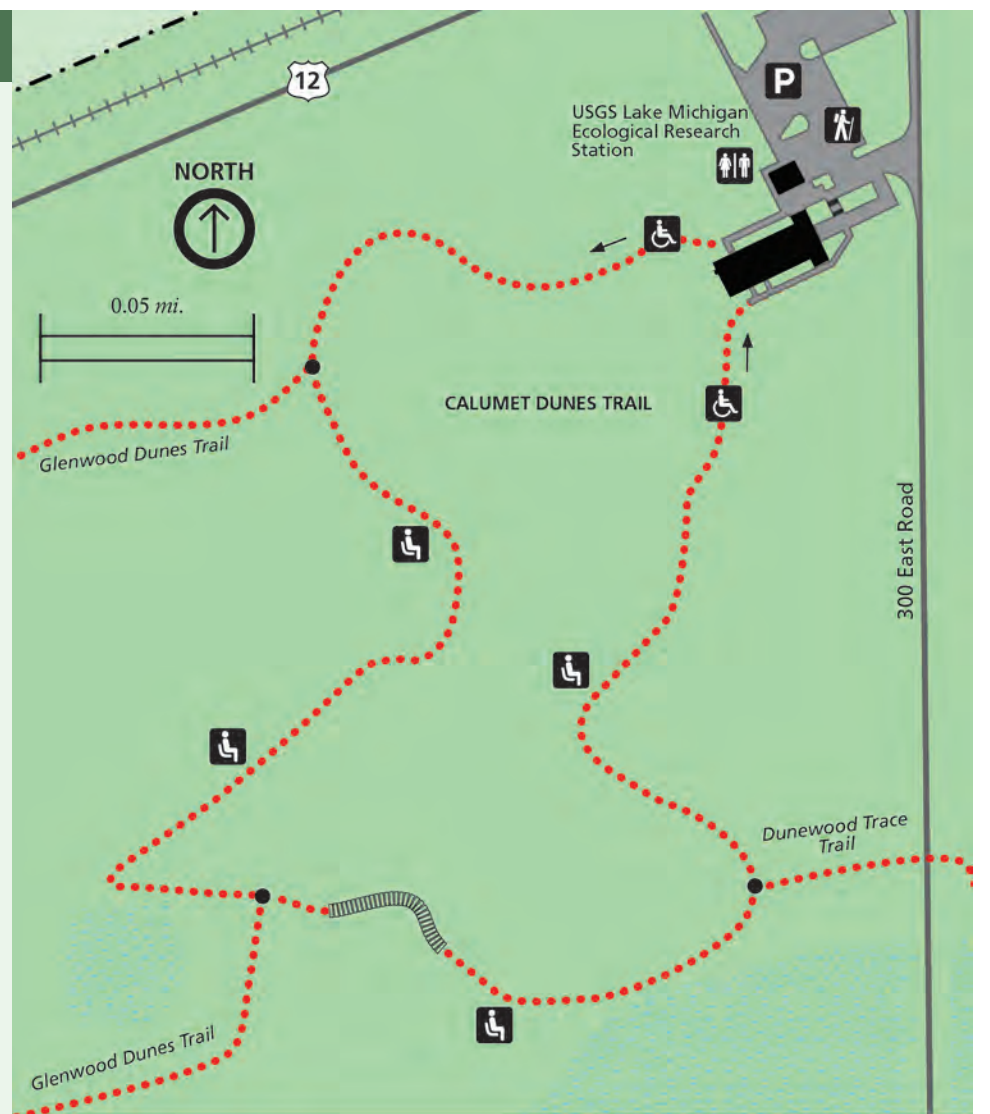
Trailhead Parking Lot

1596 North Kemil Road (300E), Chesterton, IN 46304 (Intersection of Kemil Road and U.S. Highway 12)

Note: Kemil Road is called East State Park Rd north of U.S. Hwy 12.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.661836, -87.010109 (Decimal Degrees)



Dune Ridge Trail

This hike offers great views of the extensive wetlands and forests south of this tall, forested dune. Perhaps no other area in the national park will take you through as many diverse habitats in such a short trail. Visit Kemil Beach for swimming and other beach activities after your hike.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate, 0.7 miles in length, hike time of 30 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Great Marsh Overlook, Birding, Fall Colors, Wildflowers and Wildlife, Kemil Beach

GETTING THERE:

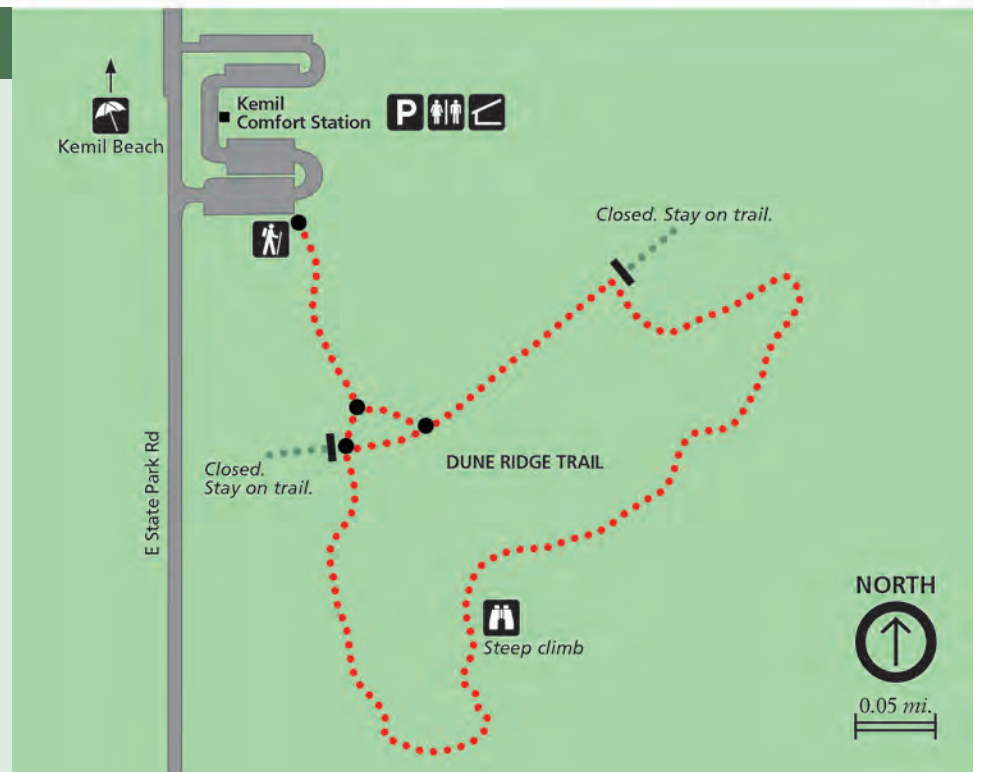
Trailhead Parking Lot

North of U.S. Highway 12 on East State Park Road (300E), Beverly Shores, IN 46301.

Note: East State Park Road is called Kemil Road to the south of U.S. Highway 12.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.677357, -87.008950 (Decimal Degrees)





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

Great Marsh Trail

A really nice birding hike with views of the largest wetland complex in the Lake Michigan watershed. During the migration periods, the wetland will be frequented by flocks of ducks and geese. Features a separate wheelchair accessible paved trail with quick access to an observation deck.

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 1.3 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Birding, Great Marsh Observation Deck, Wildlife

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

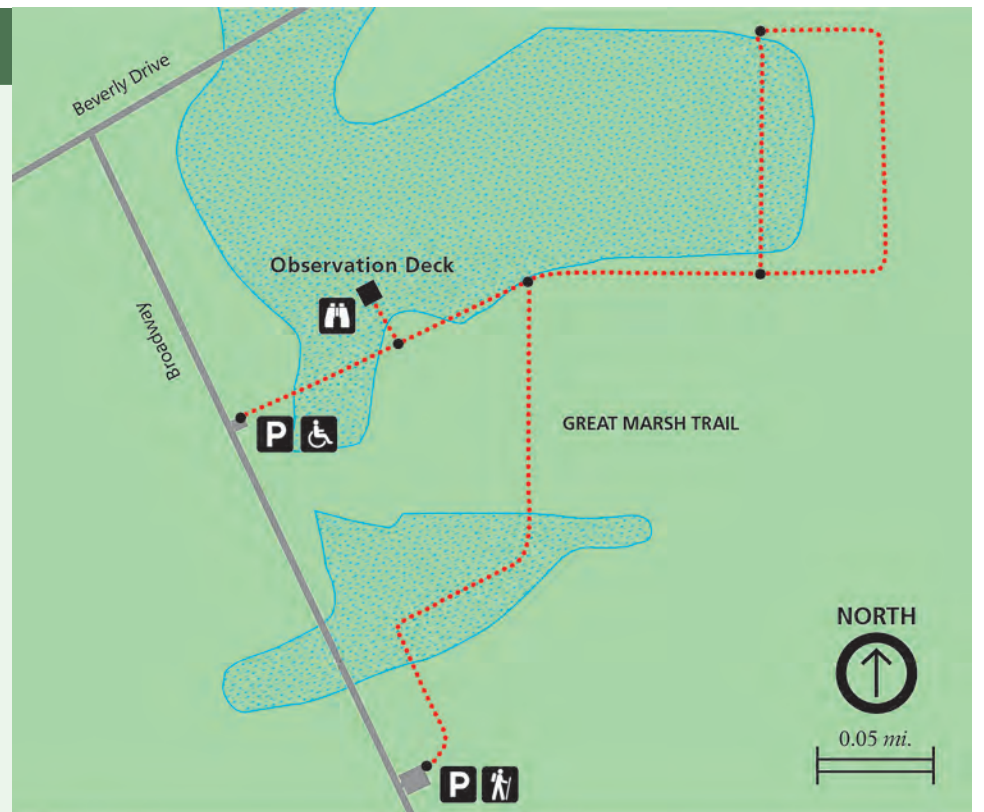
Both lots are north of U.S. Highway 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores, IN 46301

South lot is the main trailhead. North lot has one handicap and one regular parking spot.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

South Lot: 41.674825, -86.986607 (Decimal Degrees)

North Lot: 41.677522, -86.988220 (Decimal Degrees)



Heron Rookery Trail

The Heron Rookery Trail follows along the Little Calumet River.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Spring Wildflowers, Birding, Wildlife, Little Calumet River

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 3.3 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

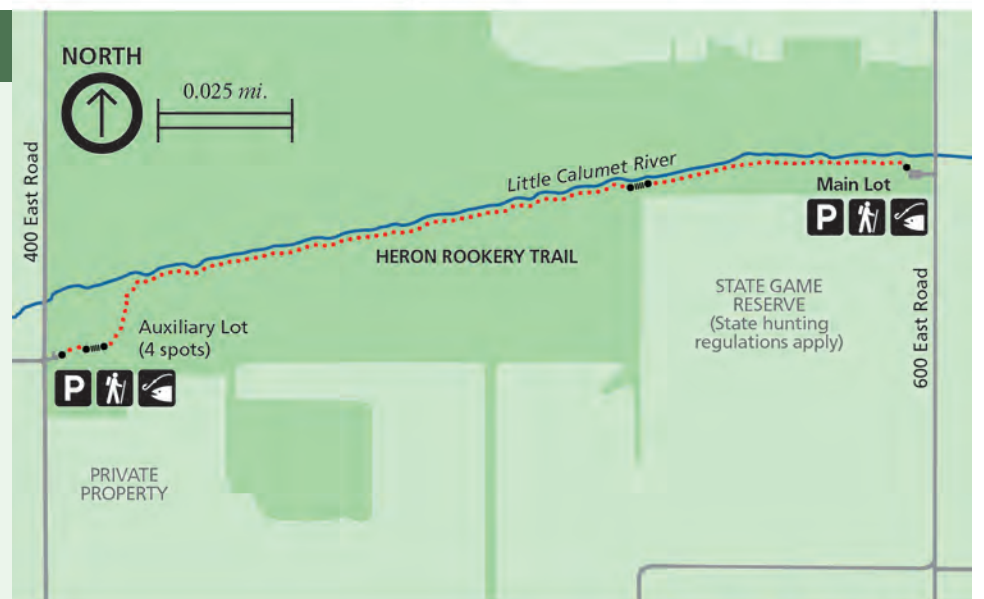
Main (east) Lot: 1336 600 East, Michigan City, IN 46360

Alternate (west) Lot: 1301 North 450 East, Chesterton, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

East Lot: 41.627043, -86.952446 (Decimal Degrees)

West Lot: 41.622502, -86.980227 (Decimal Degrees)



Mount Baldy Beach Trail

The Beach Trail hike (unrestricted access) is short hike with a steep climb down loose sand to the beach. Be sure to plan accordingly as the only way out is up the steep trail. Do not bring large cooler and other beach items as the climb up from the beach is difficult.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate to rugged, 0.75 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Views, Lake Michigan

MUST SEE GEMS:

Views from the top of Mount Baldy

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot

101 Rice Street (U.S. Highway 12), Michigan City, IN 46360

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.706852, -86.929907 (Decimal Degrees)



Pinhook Bog / Upland Trail

The Pinhook Bog Trail System features two very different habitats. The Upland Trail highlights a rich beech and maple forest growing on top of a glacial moraine formed about 15,000 years ago. The Upland Hike is open to the public year round without the need for a guided tour. The Bog Trail (ranger-led hikes only) leads to a bog in a depression in the moraine created when a large piece of ice broke off the melting glacier.

HIKE DETAILS:

Upland hike: Moderate, 2.1 miles in length, hike time of 1.5 hours.

Bog hike*: Easy, 0.9 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour (restricted).

TRAIL FEATURES:

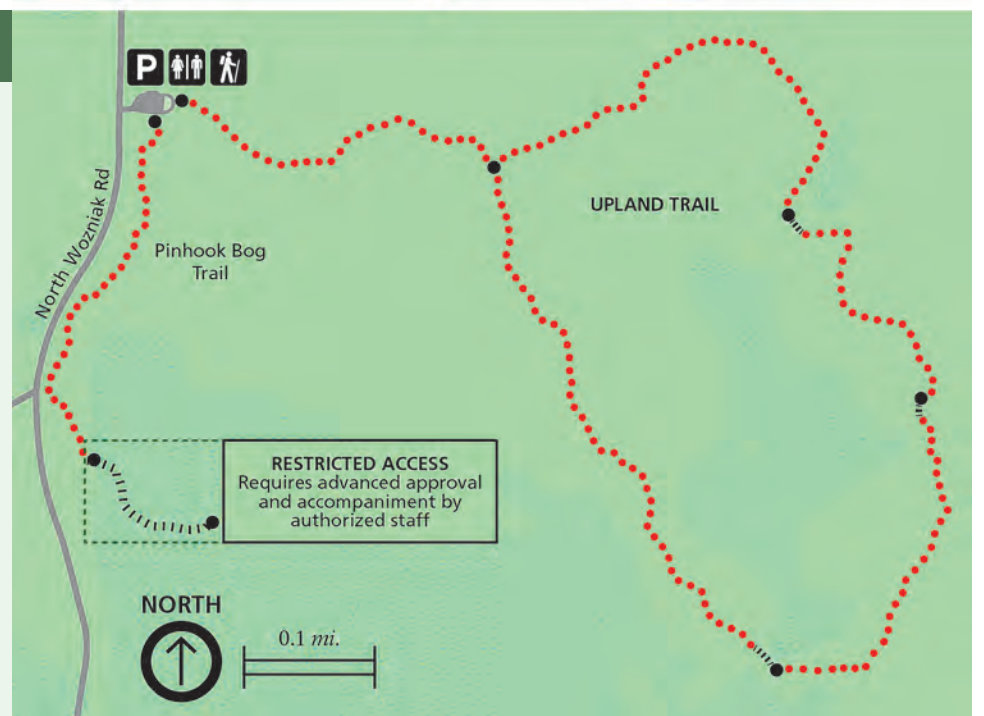
Unique Plants, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Bog (Restricted Access)

GETTING THERE: Trailhead Parking Lot

946 North Wozniak Road, LaPorte, IN 46360

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.621214, -86.850227 (Decimal Degrees)



DNR State Park Trails Overview

Note: for trail locations, view the property map on the state park's website by scanning QR code right here.

Trail 2. Easy (3 miles)—the best trail for early spring flowers and ferns. Climax forest is used for crosscountry skiing during the winter season.

Trail 3. Moderate (.75 Mile)—provides an opportunity to view succession in dunes area. Excellent for late spring wildflowers, including prickly pear cactus.

Trail 4. Moderate (.75 Mile)—goes through dunes covered with black oak forest.

Trail 7. Moderate (1.1 Miles)—similar to trail 4. Most direct route from nature center to beach.

Trail 8. Rugged (1.5 Miles)—goes over the tops of the three highest dunes of the Indiana Dunes.

Trail 9. Moderate (3.75 Miles)—provides best representative view of the dunes. Good view of lake.

Trail 10. Moderate (5.5 Miles)—hikers are rewarded by stands of white pine and a “tree graveyard” in big blowout. A good morning hike.

Please stay on marked trails.

Visitors can enjoy Indiana Dunes State Park in a wide variety of ways. A campground, many picnic shelters and picnic areas, more than 16 miles of hiking trails, a swimming beach, and the Nature Center are available for visitors' use and are operated with visitor safety in mind.

During the summer season, a beach pavilion provides shelter, restrooms with outside showers only, a snack bar, and gift shop.



Dunes Nature Preserve, encompassing 1,530 acres and located within the boundaries of the state park, provides visitors with an opportunity to explore pristine and unique landscapes.

Indiana Dunes State Park features a wide variety of habitats, including beach, sand dunes, black oak forest, wooded wetlands, and a button-bush marsh. Together, these areas contain some of the most diverse flora and fauna in the Midwest. Botanists from across the country enjoy studying the unusual collection of plant life. In fact, it was here that Henry Cowles, known to many as the “father of ecology” did his landmark studies of succession in the early 1900s. As a result of his work, Indiana Dunes became known as “the birthplace of ecology.”

The dunes provide an opportunity to explore an exciting and ever-changing landscape. In several areas, huge “living” or “moving” dunes are slowly being blown inland, burying forests as they go. A prime example can be seen from Trail 9.

Other interesting features include “tree graveyards” (places where forests have been buried by sand and then, more recently, re-exposed by wind erosion). “Tree graveyards” can be seen in Big Blowout, near Trail 10.

The Indiana Dunes area also is renowned throughout the Midwest for its birding. Visit the Nature Center to ask about good birding locations.

Indiana Dunes State Park is surrounded by Indiana Dunes National Park, a federally administered park comprising approximately 15,000 acres.

Indiana Dunes State Park Website

For more information, scan the QR code seen here or visit on.IN.gov/indianadunessp



A New Indiana Dunes Movie to Enjoy

“Indiana Dunes: Nature’s Masterpiece, filmed by Chesterton local, Thad Donovan, leads viewers on a tour of the Indiana Dunes, showcasing majestic views of Lake Michigan and its surrounding dunes, trails, forests and other habitats. National Park Service rangers take the viewer to various locations in the parks, highlighting examples of the unique plant and animal biodiversity found in the Indiana Dunes. This includes pitcher plants, cacti and some of the over 350 species of birds that live in or travel through the dunes area. Local historical sites and areas of geological interest are also explored.

Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent, stated that “The film was made to welcome visitors to the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and introduce them to the amazing features of our parks. It showcases the Indiana Dunes’ staggering amount of natural and cultural features, which will surely lead to extended trips for visitors. All of us are proud of the production, and we hope it serves us for the years ahead.”



This 24-minute documentary-style film is free to watch, and will be playing at both the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Paul H. Douglas Nature Center theaters. Showtimes and days may vary, so please call before your visit at (219) 395-1882.

Winter Activities

Hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular in the wintertime. If you need snowshoes or cross-country skis, free rentals are available at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education for use on the Paul H. Douglas Trail, weather permitting.

Visitors must bring their own snowshoes and cross-country skis at other places in the park. A 3 to 4 inch snow base is recommended. Trails are not groomed. Please call the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 for trail conditions. State Park trails are also good for winter recreation.

Hikers and visitors using snowshoes are asked to walk to the right of the cross-country ski tracks whenever possible.

Sledding is permitted at two locations in the parks: just southwest of the West Beach picnic shelters on the east slope of the West Beach Trails and at the Devil’s Slide in the State Park, just east of the main parking lot. Please call the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 with any questions.

Snowmobiling is not permitted anywhere in either park.



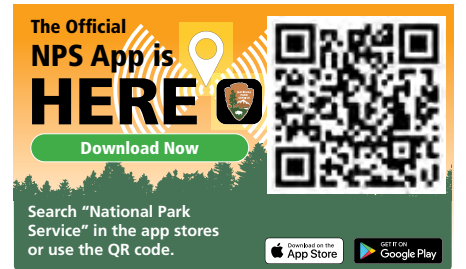
For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our winter activities page at <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/winteractivities.htm>



Partners Provide Keys to Success



Parks are so much more than the sum of their acres, facilities, or programs. They are not just government bureaucracies. They are thriving, dynamic connections between all kinds of people within these special places. Indiana Dunes thrives on partnerships. If you want to help and connect into this hive of activity and support, check out the websites of our partners below. Find your niche where you can make a difference.



Dunes Learning Center

Since 1998 they have operated a residential environmental education facility within the national park on the historic Camp Good Fellow property. They offer education programs for schools and youth organizations that range from in-depth day trips to week-long summer camps. Check out their work at www.duneslearningcenter.org



Friends of Indiana Dunes

As their name says, they are the state and national park's primary "Friends" group, providing donations and support for a variety of programs and initiatives. Their members also volunteer hundreds of hours of time to assist with all kinds of projects in both parks. www.friendsofindianadunes.com



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana Landmarks

Indiana Landmarks saves the places that matter to Hoosiers—houses, barns, bridges, churches, schools, downtown districts, vintage neighborhoods. By restoring and repurposing historic buildings, we reconnect people to heritage and revitalize communities. At Indiana Dunes, Landmarks is helping to restore the Century of Progress homes and other cultural sites in the park. www.indianalandmarks.org



Northwest Indiana Paddling Association

This non-profit organization is all about educating people about where and how to safely paddle in the region. They host events and work to increase paddling opportunities in the area. Their volunteers have been helping to restore and clear the East Branch of the Little Calumet River as a paddling destination. www.nwipa.org



Save the Dunes

This is the advocacy organization that made Indiana Dunes National Park a reality in 1966. It was originally called the Save the Dunes Council and was led by Dorothy Buell in 1952. Now the park's main visitor center is named for her. This organization didn't stop when the national park was established but continues today to protect the land and water of the area for future generations. www.savedunes.org



Shirley Heinze Land Trust

For 40 years, this group of engaged citizens has preserved and restored thousands (2,700+) of acres of natural areas throughout northwestern Indiana. Their preserves have excellent hiking trails to be able to see some of the diverse flora and fauna of the region. Check out their website for more details and plan a trip to a nearby nature preserve. www.heinzetrust.org



3 Local County Tourism Agencies



Indiana Dunes Tourism

Our partners in operating the primary visitor center in the park that serves as the orientation point for both the state and national park. www.indianadunes.com



South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority

They operate the Indiana Welcome Center in Highland, IN off I-80/94. www.southshorecva.com



Michigan City - Laporte Tourism

Serving LaPorte County Indiana and the eastern entrance to the Dunes, this tourism agency resides in the Marquette Mall in Michigan City to provide tourism information to visitors. www.michigancitylaporte.com

