



Summer 2013 - Vol. 34 No. 1

**Mission of the National Park Service**

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

**Mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore**

Preserve, restore, and protect the outstanding ecological and biological diversity along with the geological features that characterize the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Provide access for a large diverse population to experience natural, scenic open spaces and recreational, scientific, historical features, and inspirational, and educational opportunities.

**Contact Information**

ADDRESS  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road,  
Porter, IN 46304  
(GPS - N41.6336 W87.0544)

PHONE  
219-926-7561 visitor information

E-MAIL  
indu\_communications@nps.gov

WEBSITE  
www.nps.gov/indu

TWITTER  
http://twitter.com/indianadunesnl

**1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)**  
To report emergencies, criminal activities, or suspicious activity.

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**Nature in My Neighborhood Campaign Launched**

by Costa Dillon, Superintendent

**Inspiration. Education. Recreation.** These three words form the core mission that Congress assigned to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore through our enabling legislation:

*"...to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public certain portions of the Indiana Dunes and other areas of scenic, scientific, and historic interest and recreational value in the State of Indiana."*

This April, we unveiled the new *Nature in My Neighborhood* campaign, creating three opportunities for your inspiration, education, and recreation.

**Inspiration Through Play**

The new Nature Play Zone, adjacent to the park's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, opened on April 27 to help inspire generations of children to love nature and the outdoors. In other parts of the national lakeshore, digging holes and moving natural objects is not allowed. In this specially designated area, children are allowed free exploration of the dune and the forest. You won't find swings or slides here. Instead, you'll find logs, rocks, trees, and sand to freely manipulate and play with. There is a small sun shade and seating pavilion, with a porous hard surface to make it easier for strollers.

Researchers and doctors are calling for more outdoor play for children to help fight high obesity rates, and to balance the amount of time spent in front of computer and TV screens. In the Nature Play Zone, children



can build with logs, dig in the dirt, forge their own paths, or just lay back and watch the birds. It is their special place to experience and develop critical thinking and life skills through play. This opportunity is unique for most national parks, and we are excited to share it with visitors and community members.

**Distance Learning Education**

The national lakeshore has a strong education program with more than 10,000 students attending park programs each year. Now the park can broadcast its education programs to an even larger audience via the internet. The park purchased a portable distance learning system with a generous donation from the Dunes National Park Association and its contributors: NIPSCO, Walmart, and the Lawicki family. Educators and researchers will broadcast from park field locations where scientists may be testing water quality or monitoring Karner blue butterflies, and transmit these experiences over the internet to students who cannot take a field trip to the park. These interactive programs will allow students to ask questions and have dialogue with scientists and park rangers in real time.

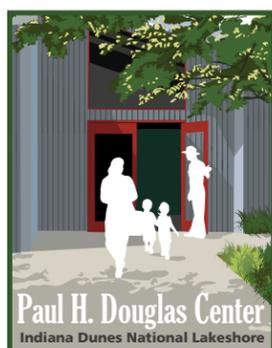
**Recreation In Partnership**

Working with the City of Gary and its development plans for Marquette Park, the National Park Service has extended the Miller Woods Trail to connect with the Marquette Park trail system. This new trail between the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and the beach provides a look at one of the hidden treasures of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - the Marquette lagoons and the rare oak savannas of Miller Woods.

We invite you and your family to join us for inspiration, education, and recreation at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Nature Play Zone is open from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m. seven days a week in the summer and 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday in winter. Explore the new Miller Woods trail with a ranger on Saturdays this summer at 1:30 p.m. and watch for red-headed woodpeckers and beavers in the lagoons. Visit the park's education web page at [www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers](http://www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers) to learn how your class can get involved with the new distance learning program. Explore the fifteen miles of beach or over forty miles of trails, and find your own inspiration at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

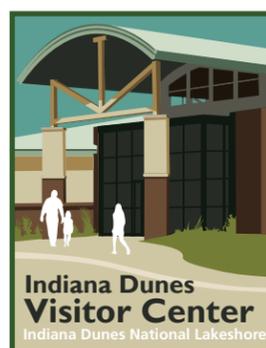
**Park Information**

Unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.



**Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education**

Located on 100 N. Lake St. Miller, 46403, Indiana. Open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. (Winter: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Sat.) GPS: N41.6061 W87.2678



**Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center**

Located on SR 49, between U.S. Hwy. 20 and Interstate 94 near Chesterton, Indiana. Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the summer and 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the winter. GPS: N41.6336 W87.0544