

# Bloomington

INDIANA



LAKE GUIDE

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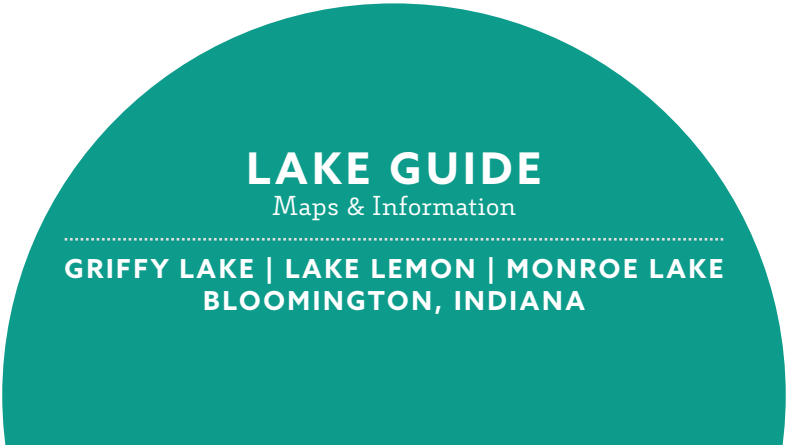
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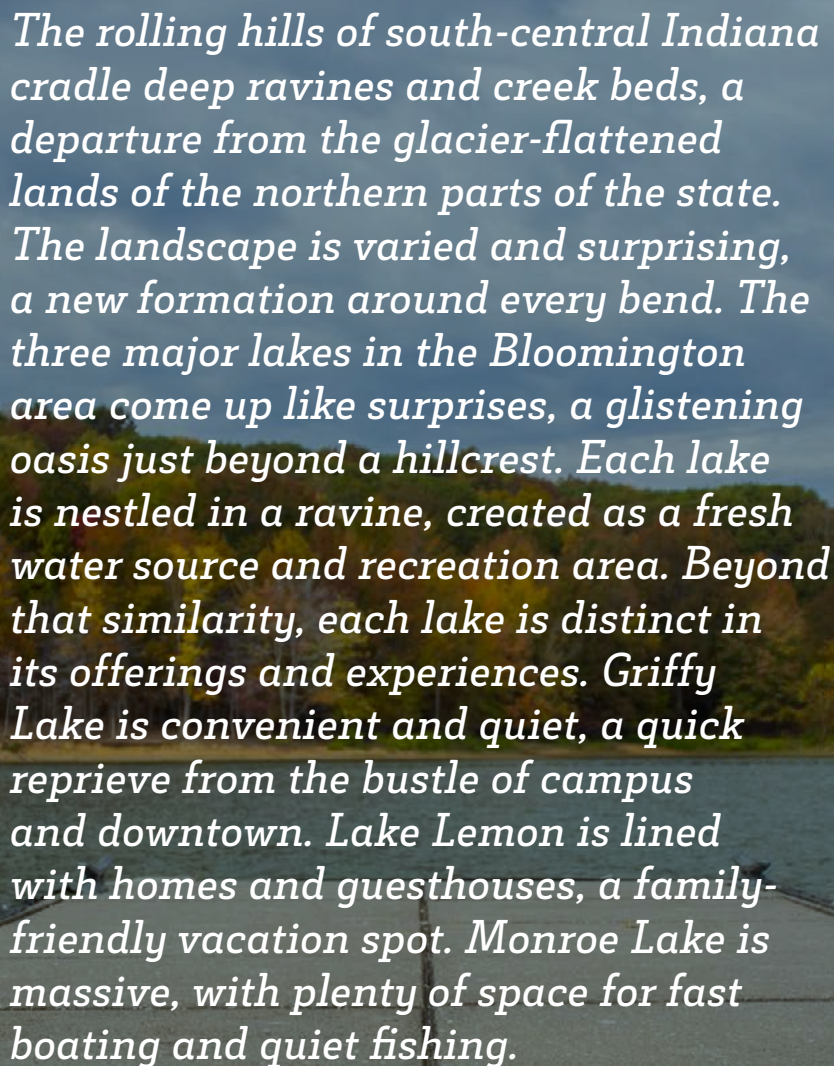
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A scenic view of a lake with a paved path in the foreground and trees in the background. The path is made of asphalt and has a dark line down the center. The lake is calm and reflects the sky. The trees in the background are green and yellow, suggesting autumn. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*The rolling hills of south-central Indiana cradle deep ravines and creek beds, a departure from the glacier-flattened lands of the northern parts of the state. The landscape is varied and surprising, a new formation around every bend. The three major lakes in the Bloomington area come up like surprises, a glistening oasis just beyond a hillcrest. Each lake is nestled in a ravine, created as a fresh water source and recreation area. Beyond that similarity, each lake is distinct in its offerings and experiences. Griffy Lake is convenient and quiet, a quick reprieve from the bustle of campus and downtown. Lake Lemon is lined with homes and guesthouses, a family-friendly vacation spot. Monroe Lake is massive, with plenty of space for fast boating and quiet fishing.*

*These lakes sustain us. They provide a refuge from the rest of the world, a place to decompress or to reenergize, or both. This guide can help you find the perfect water-based getaway. All you have to do is find a time to get away.*

## TRIP IDEA

*A trip to the lake involves lots of time on the water, but there are plenty of places to go on land to make your trip complete. Plus, a few hours out of the water means those fingers won't be pruney.*







## SNACKS

Stop by Bloomingfoods, our nationally recognized co-op, for tasty and healthy treats to take with you on the boat or hike.



## DINNER

Locally sourced seafood and more can be found at No Coast Reserve, an upscale restaurant on the square in downtown Bloomington. Or take in a great view of Monroe Lake on the porch at Scenic View Restaurant.



## GEAR

Seaview Outfitters has everything you need for an outdoor excursion, including the expertise to help you plan your adventure. Walk around the square to JL Waters for another outdoor shop that's been outfitting Bloomington expeditioners since 1973.



## ENTERTAINMENT

Head to the Port Hole Bar and Grill on Lake Lemon or Eagle Pointe Golf Resort near Monroe Lake for live music. Take the family to Bloomington Speedway or Starlite Drive-In for exciting entertainment. All are available on the weekends.

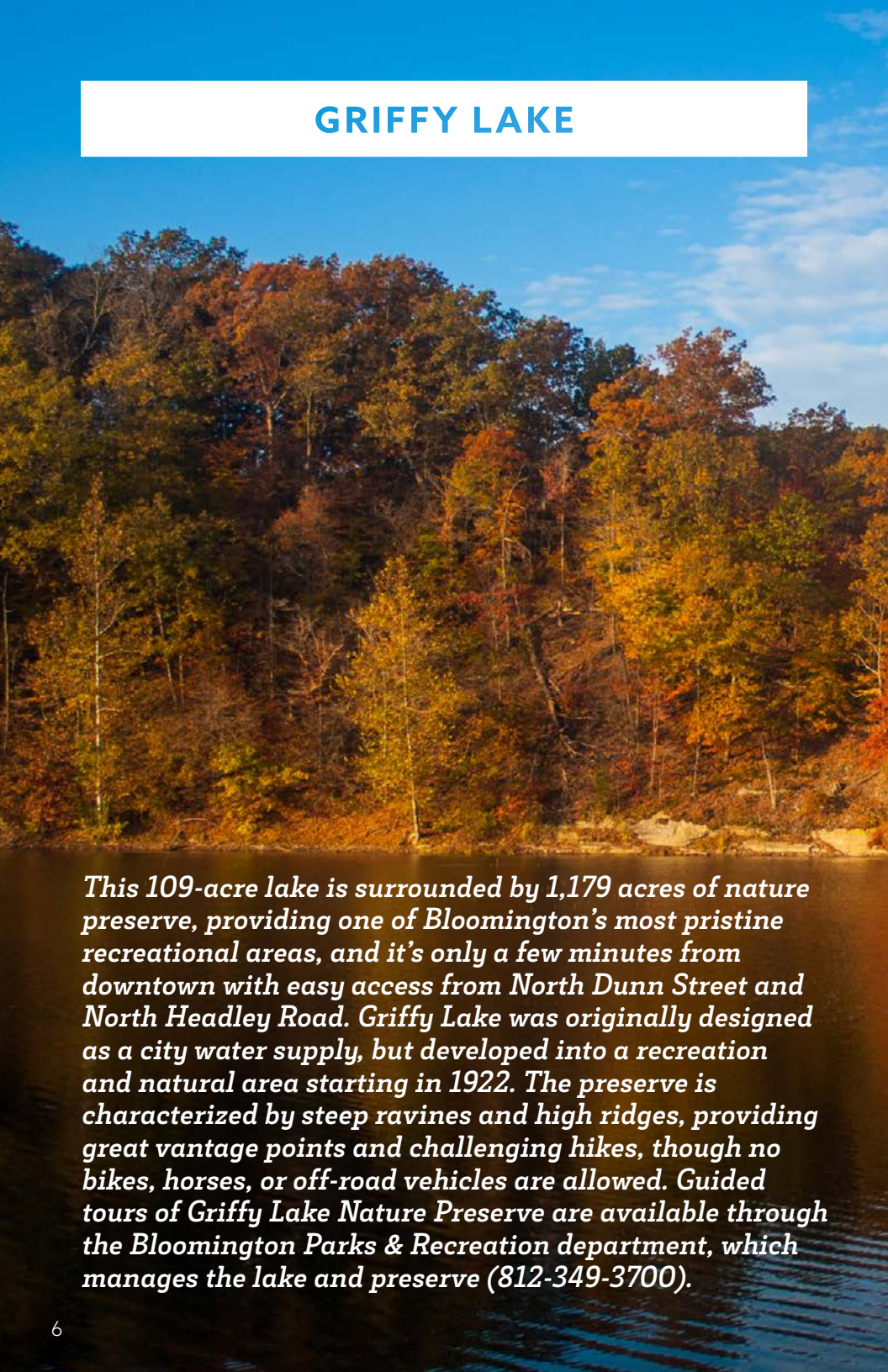


## SLEEP

There's no better place to stay close to Monroe Lake than Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina, where you can also rent boats and jet skis. Or choose a serene cabin for a more rustic experience.



## GRIFFY LAKE



*This 109-acre lake is surrounded by 1,179 acres of nature preserve, providing one of Bloomington's most pristine recreational areas, and it's only a few minutes from downtown with easy access from North Dunn Street and North Headley Road. Griffy Lake was originally designed as a city water supply, but developed into a recreation and natural area starting in 1922. The preserve is characterized by steep ravines and high ridges, providing great vantage points and challenging hikes, though no bikes, horses, or off-road vehicles are allowed. Guided tours of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve are available through the Bloomington Parks & Recreation department, which manages the lake and preserve (812-349-3700).*

## BOATING

To protect the lake and nature preserve, only non-motorized boats and boats with electric trolling motors are allowed, and launching fees apply. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent through the boathouse, 812-349-3732.

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## SWIMMING

Swimming is not allowed at Griffy Lake.

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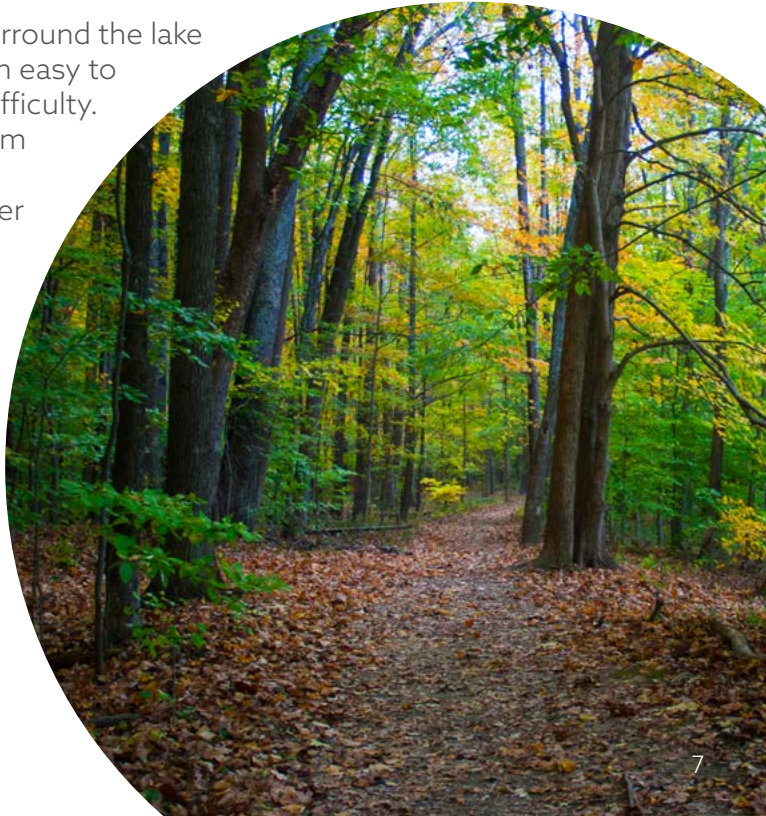
## FISHING

Griffy Lake is a great place for a relaxed fishing expedition, with numerous spots along the shoreline that are well suited for catching bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish among others. Indiana state fishing regulations are in effect, so anglers must purchase an Indiana fishing license unless they are under the age of 17. For information on fishing licenses and regulations, contact the IDNR or go online to [in.gov/dnr](http://in.gov/dnr).

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## TRAILS

Hiking trails surround the lake and range from easy to moderate in difficulty. Eight trails, from .4 miles to 3.7 miles long, offer peaceful hikes through the lush forest and near the shoreline. This is one of the best places in Bloomington for a short hike in a convenient location.





OLD STATE ROAD 37 N

GRIFFY LA  
NATURE PRES

P

GRIFFY LAKE

NORTH SHORE LOOP SPUR

NORTH SHORE TRAIL

SOUTH SHORE TRAILS

SOUTH SHORE TRAILS

SOUTH SHORE TRAILS

GRIFFY LAKE  
NATURE PRESERVE

N WALNUT ST

N DUNN ST

BYPASS

45 46



BLOOMINGTON



KE  
SERVE



N HINKLE RD

HIKING TRAIL

GRIFFY CREEK TRAIL

NATURE TRAIL

GRIFFY LAKE  
NATURE PRESERVE

GRIFFY CREEK TRAIL

WETLAND TRAIL

LANAM TRAIL

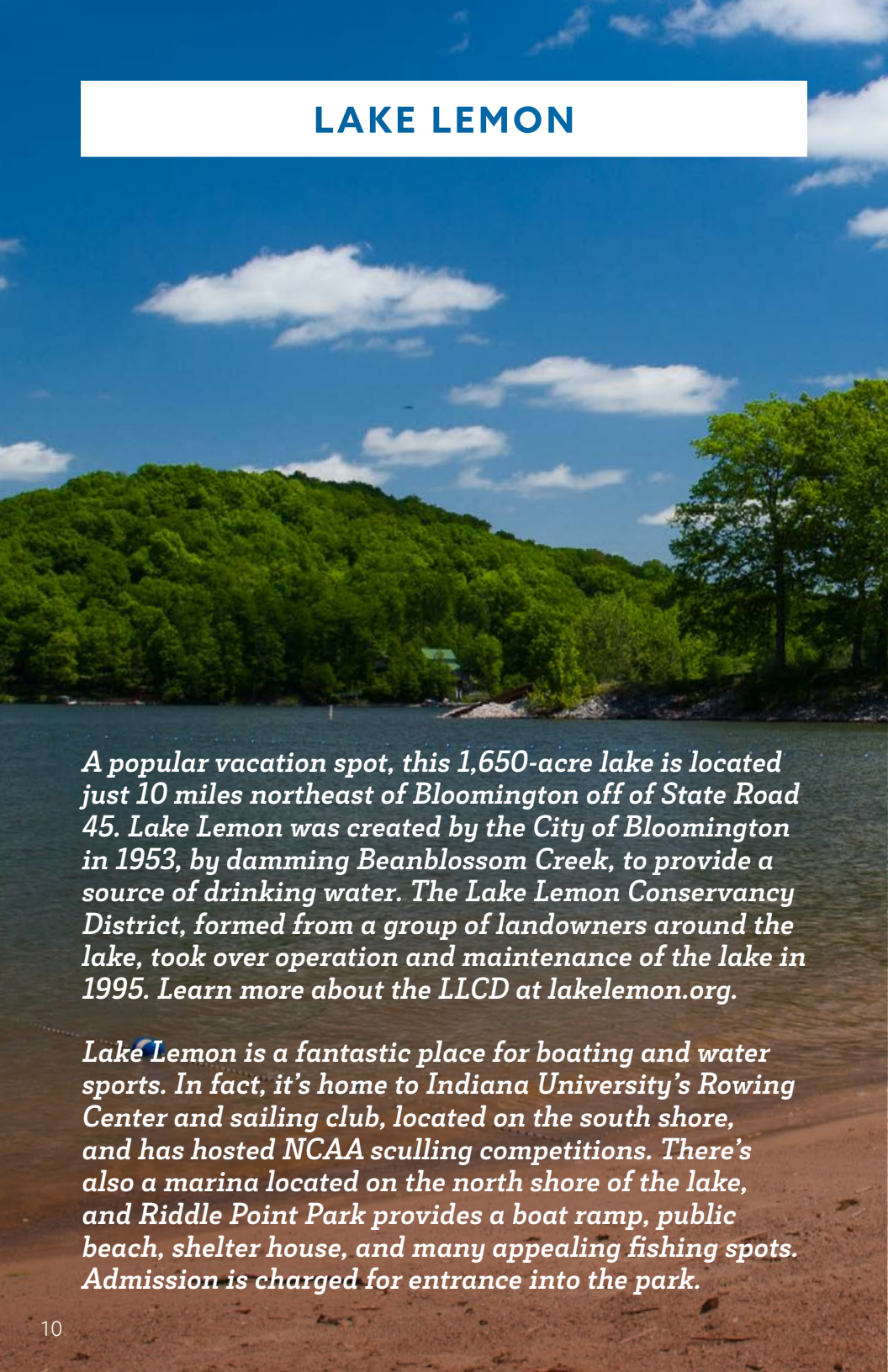
N HEADLEY RD

IU RESEARCH  
& TEACHING  
PRESERVE TRAILS

BYPASS

45 46

## LAKE LEMON



*A popular vacation spot, this 1,650-acre lake is located just 10 miles northeast of Bloomington off of State Road 45. Lake Lemon was created by the City of Bloomington in 1953, by damming Beanblossom Creek, to provide a source of drinking water. The Lake Lemon Conservancy District, formed from a group of landowners around the lake, took over operation and maintenance of the lake in 1995. Learn more about the LLCD at [lakelemon.org](http://lakelemon.org).*

*Lake Lemon is a fantastic place for boating and water sports. In fact, it's home to Indiana University's Rowing Center and sailing club, located on the south shore, and has hosted NCAA sculling competitions. There's also a marina located on the north shore of the lake, and Riddle Point Park provides a boat ramp, public beach, shelter house, and many appealing fishing spots. Admission is charged for entrance into the park.*

## BOATING

Boating is allowed on Lake Lemon, and the water can be quite busy on weekends. Still, the smaller size provides a more relaxed experience than you'd find on a larger lake. Private boats can launch at Riddle Point Park (up to 30 ft) and Lake Lemon boat permits are required.



## SWIMMING

Riddle Point Park provides the lake's only swimming beach, but its family-friendly atmosphere and small crowds make it a great option. There are no lifeguards on the beach.

## FISHING

Lake Lemon is a great fishing lake, with abundant species of bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie among others. Indiana state fishing regulations are in effect, so anglers must purchase an Indiana fishing license unless they are under the age of 17. For information on fishing licenses and regulations, visit [in.gov/dnr](http://in.gov/dnr).

## TRAILS

Because much of the land surrounding the lake is privately owned, there is only one hiking trail available at Riddle Point Park. This .5-mile trail is an easy hike and loops through wooded areas to a scenic overlook of the lake.

## LODGING

There are several privately owned guesthouses available for rent on and near Lake Lemon. Go to [visitbloomington.com](http://visitbloomington.com) to check out more options.

### **Antler Log Cabins**

812-339-6547 • [antlerlogcabins.com](http://antlerlogcabins.com)

### **Lake Lemon Guesthouses**

812-336-4050 • [lakelemonguesthouses.com](http://lakelemonguesthouses.com)

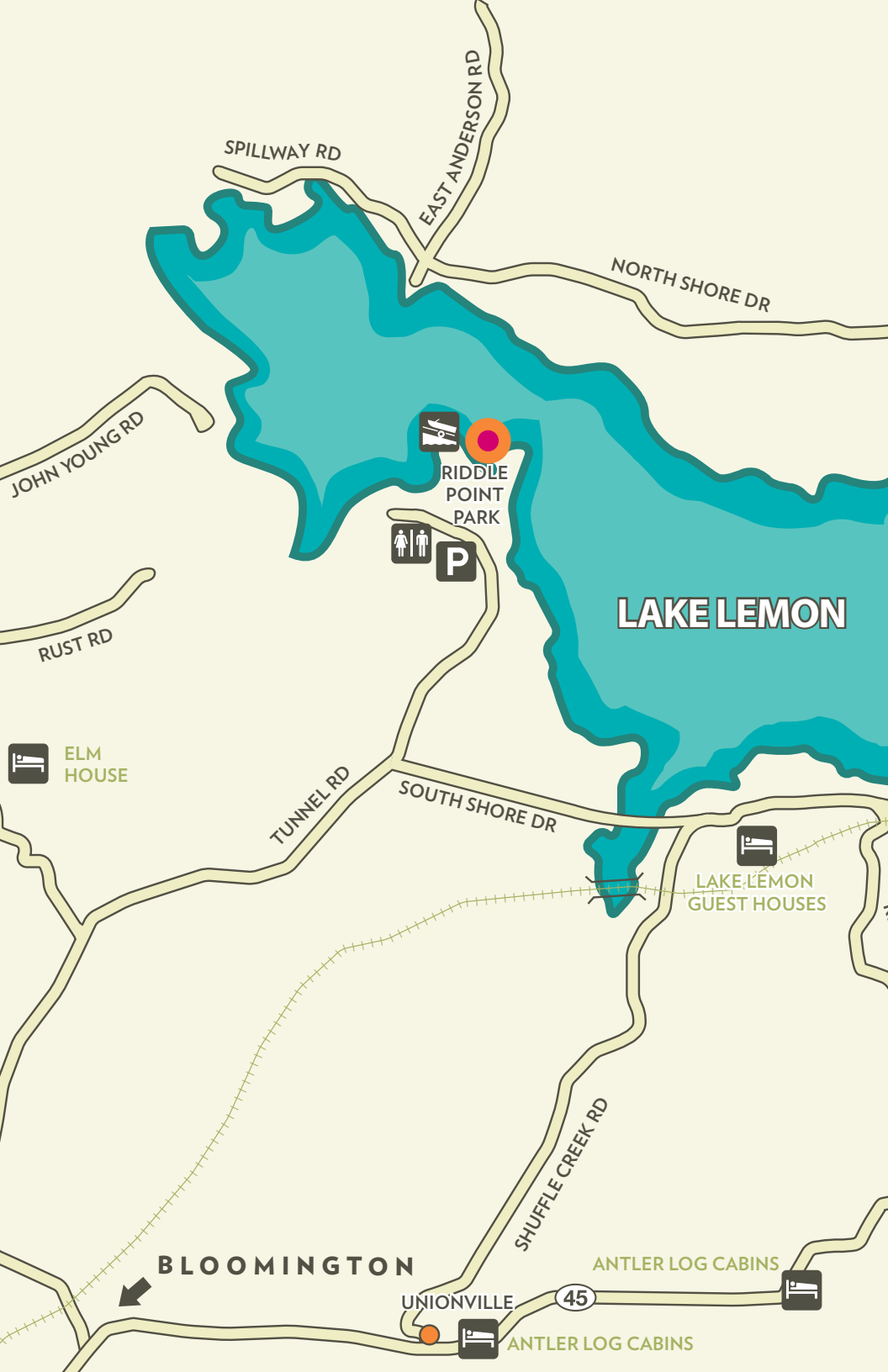
### **Elm House**

812-340-0513 • [elmhouseindiana.com](http://elmhouseindiana.com)

### **Red Rabbit Inn**

812-330-1216 • [redrabbitinn.com](http://redrabbitinn.com)





SPILLWAY RD

EAST ANDERSON RD

NORTH SHORE DR

JOHN YOUNG RD

RUST RD

RIDDLE  
POINT  
PARK

LAKE LEMON

ELM  
HOUSE

TUNNEL RD

SOUTH SHORE DR

LAKE LEMON  
GUEST HOUSES

BLOOMINGTON

SHUFFLE CREEK RD

ANTLER LOG CABINS

UNIONVILLE

45

ANTLER LOG CABINS



LAKE  
LEMON  
MARINA



LEMON  
RIDGE LODGE

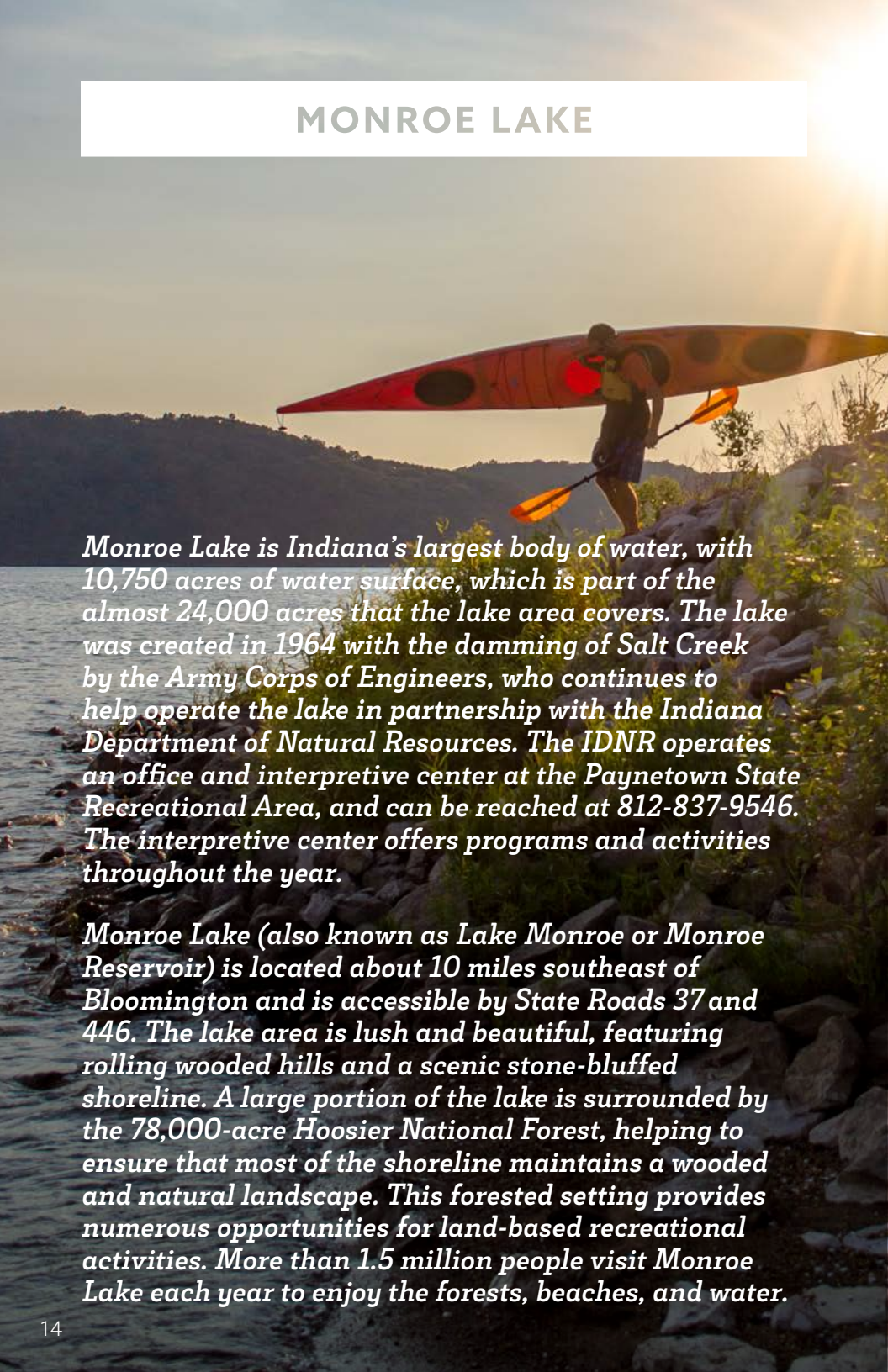
SOUTH SHORE DR

**BROWN COUNTY**

RICHARDSON RD

45

## MONROE LAKE

A person is walking on a rocky shoreline, carrying a red kayak with black spots over their shoulder. They are holding a yellow paddle. The background shows a calm lake and rolling hills under a warm, golden sunset sky.

*Monroe Lake is Indiana's largest body of water, with 10,750 acres of water surface, which is part of the almost 24,000 acres that the lake area covers. The lake was created in 1964 with the damming of Salt Creek by the Army Corps of Engineers, who continues to help operate the lake in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The IDNR operates an office and interpretive center at the Paynetown State Recreational Area, and can be reached at 812-837-9546. The interpretive center offers programs and activities throughout the year.*

*Monroe Lake (also known as Lake Monroe or Monroe Reservoir) is located about 10 miles southeast of Bloomington and is accessible by State Roads 37 and 446. The lake area is lush and beautiful, featuring rolling wooded hills and a scenic stone-bluffed shoreline. A large portion of the lake is surrounded by the 78,000-acre Hoosier National Forest, helping to ensure that most of the shoreline maintains a wooded and natural landscape. This forested setting provides numerous opportunities for land-based recreational activities. More than 1.5 million people visit Monroe Lake each year to enjoy the forests, beaches, and water.*



## BOATING

Monroe Lake is divided by the causeway into two basins; the upper basin is restricted to idling speed while the lower basin is zoned for cruising. Shoreline areas and lake branches in both basins are also idle zones. Private boats are allowed on Monroe Lake, but Indiana lake permits are required (available at IDNR offices, including Paynetown).



Boat rental is available at these and other locations:

### **Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina - Fairfax SRA**

812-824-2628 • [www.fourwindsresort.com](http://www.fourwindsresort.com)

### **Lake Monroe Boat Rental - Paynetown SRA**

812-837-9909 • [www.lakemonroeboatrental.com](http://www.lakemonroeboatrental.com)

### **Lake Monroe Marina**

812-837-9394 • [lakemonroemarina.com](http://lakemonroemarina.com)

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## SWIMMING

Swimming is allowed in Monroe Lake, with three public beaches located at Fairfax SRA, Paynetown SRA, and at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. There is no charge to swim, but recreation area entrance fees do apply. There are no lifeguards on duty at state-operated beaches, so swim at your own risk. Beaches are typically open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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## FISHING

Fishing is allowed at Monroe Lake year round. Several species can be found in the lake, including large populations of bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie. Indiana state fishing regulations are in effect, so anglers must purchase an Indiana fishing license unless they are under the age of 17. For information on fishing licenses and regulations, contact the IDNR office at Paynetown, 812-837-9546 or [in.gov/dnr](http://in.gov/dnr).

## TRAILS

For land-based activities, Monroe Lake is one of the area's best recreation sites. Hiking trails are available at Allens Creek and Paynetown SRA. These trails are easy to moderate hikes, between .5 and 7.7 miles long. Hardin Ridge recreation area features a 1.4-mile interpretive trail as well as a two-mile hiking and biking trail -- the only biking trail in the Hoosier National Forest that doesn't require a trail permit.

In the rest of the Hoosier National Forest you'll find an abundance of trails. The Charles C. Deam Wilderness area contains over 37 miles of trails ranging from easy to difficult. Hiking is allowed on all trails; horseback riding and biking are allowed on some trails with a permit. Be sure to check out the view from the Hardin Ridge fire tower located on the trailhead for Axsom Branch and Sycamore trails.

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## LODGING & CAMPING

There are multiple lodging options in the Monroe Lake area, from lakeside resorts to primitive camping deep in the forest. Listed below are resort, cabin, and camping options, but you can also contact the Bloomington Visitors Center for more lodging options.

### **A Five Star Cabin**

812-988-6429 • [browncountylgocabins.com](http://browncountylgocabins.com)

### **Eagle Pointe Golf Resort**

812-824-4040 • [eaglepointe.com](http://eaglepointe.com)

### **Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina**

812-824-2628 • [fourwindsresort.com](http://fourwindsresort.com)

### **Jellystone Park at Lake Monroe**

812-824-3322 • [lakemonroejellystone.com](http://lakemonroejellystone.com)

### **Lake Monroe Village**

812-824-2267 • [lakemonroevillage.com](http://lakemonroevillage.com)

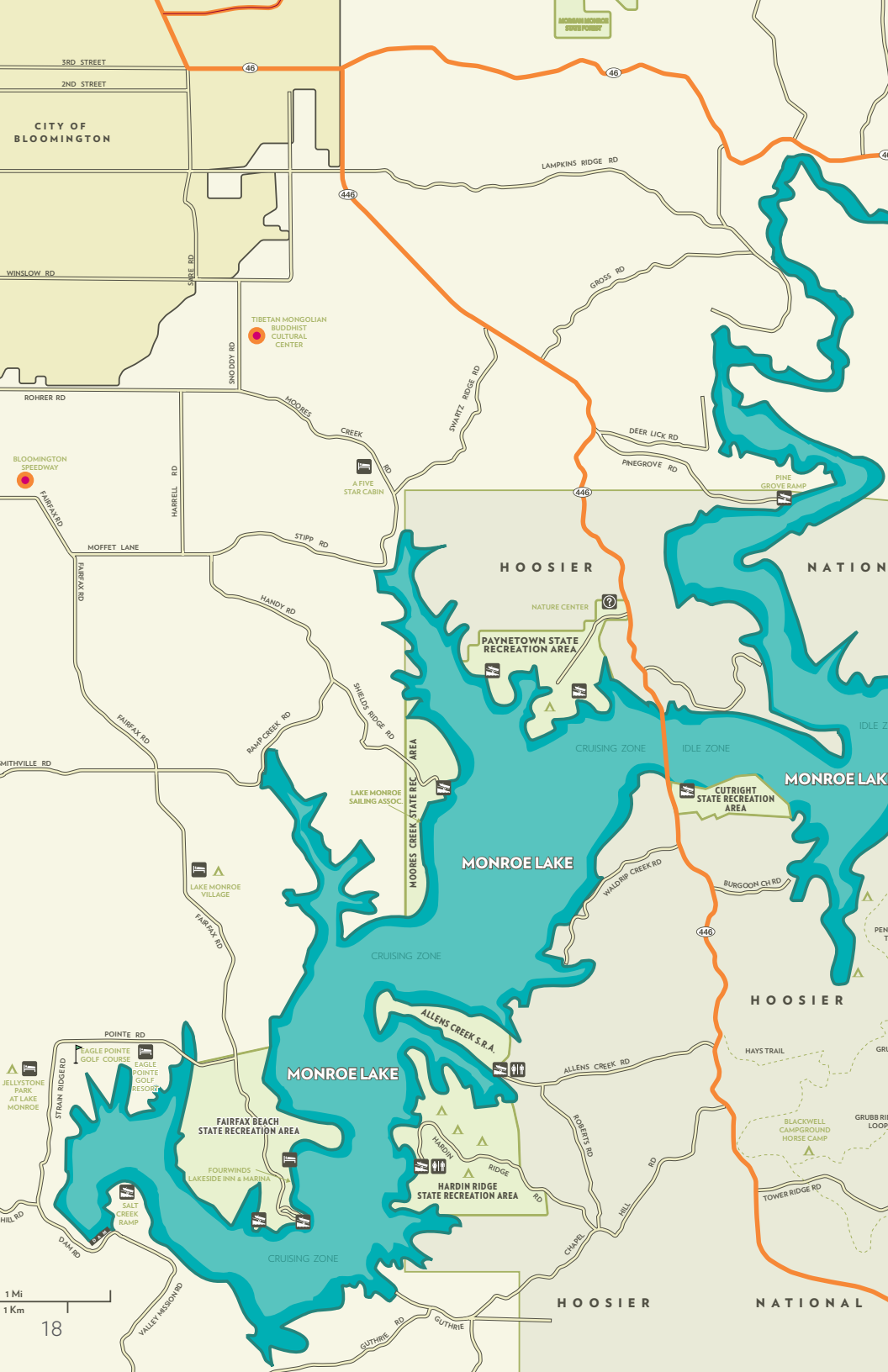
## Camping

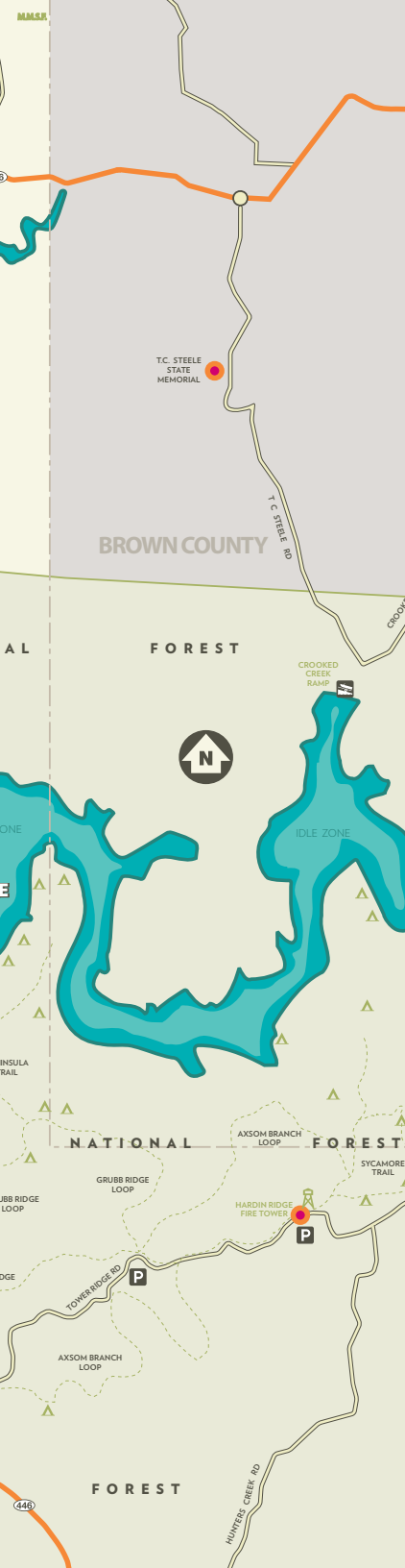
There are numerous places for camping around Monroe Lake in addition to those already listed. Hardin Ridge and Paynetown offer both primitive and RV camping sites; you can make reservations by calling 866-622-6746.

The Hoosier National Forest allows primitive camping throughout the forest, and RV camping is available at the Blackwell Horse Camp. You can get updated site accessibility information by calling the Forest's office, 812-275-5987. Please observe camping rules, regulations, and etiquette outlined by IDNR and Hoosier National Forest.









## STATE RECREATION AREAS ON MONROE LAKE

	Crooked Creek Ramp Allen's Creek	Cutright	Fairfax	Moore's Creek Hardin Ridge	Paynetown Pinegrove Ramp	Salt Creek Ramp			
BEACH				X	X		X		
BOAT RAMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BOAT RENTAL			X	X			X		
FRESH WATER SUPPLY				X	X	X	X		
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE					X		X		
HIKING	X				X		X		
LODGING/CABINS				X	X				
MARINA/SUPPLY STORE			X	X			X		
PICNIC AREA			X	X	X	X	X		
PLAYGROUND				X			X		
PRIMITIVE CAMPING					X		X		
RESTROOMS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RV CAMPING					X		X		
SHOWERS				X	X		X		

## MAP KEY

- Boat launch
- Lodging
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Information
- Point of interest
- Campground
- Fire tower
- Highway
- Road
- Trail

## OTHER OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

*There are many outdoor recreation opportunities beyond the three lake areas. The information in this section provides a few examples of Bloomington's beautiful parks, trails, and outdoor activities. For more options, go to [visitbloomington.com/outdoors](http://visitbloomington.com/outdoors).*

## BLOOMINGTON PARKS & RECREATION

This award-winning parks department offers a wide variety of parks, trails, and programs. Request maps and program guides from the Parks department at [bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://bloomington.in.gov/parks) or 812-349-3700.

There are 40 parks in the Bloomington system, offering a variety of opportunities from fun family playgrounds to hiking trails. **Bryan Park**, one of the city's most popular parks, offers amenities such as playgrounds, ball fields, basketball and tennis courts, shelter houses, a running trail, plus a large outdoor pool with three slides and a zero-depth area for little ones.

**Leonard Springs Nature Park** covers 95.5 acres and is intended to preserve the natural area, providing a perfect place to commune with the environment. The area centers around two natural springs which were used as a water source for the city in the early 1900s. The hiking trails around the area showcase springs, caves, waterfalls, and wetlands.



Bloomington's multi-use trails include **Clear Creek Trail**, a 2.4-mile paved trail, **the Rail Trail**, a two-mile gravel trail, and the **B-Line Trail**, which spans more than three miles through the downtown area and features artwork and seasonal performances. For off-road biking, **Wapehani Mountain Bike Park** offers five miles of trails that range in difficulty, length, and scenery. Most city parks have trail systems too.



CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

## MONROE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

This park system offers several parks and playgrounds, including **Karst Farm Park**, a large multi-use park on the west side of Bloomington that features terrific playgrounds, soccer fields, disc golf course, shelters and picnic areas, and a great zero-depth water park.

**The Karst Farm Greenway** runs north-south through the western part of Monroe County. This 3.5 mile trail for walking and biking has a trailhead at Karst Farm Park. You can get more information at 812-349-2800 or [co.monroe.us](http://co.monroe.us).



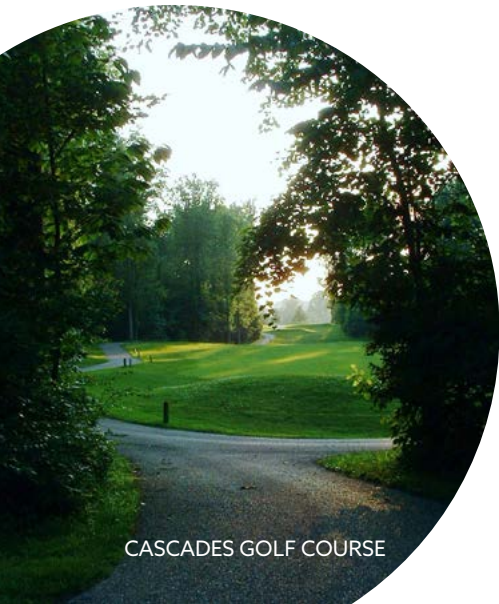
KARST FARM SPLASH PAD



INDIANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Besides the extensive trail system, which is great for sight-seeing or an invigorating jog, the campus also features the **IU Outdoor Pool** which has a 50-meter competition pool, wading area for small children, and diving pool with springboards and a five-level diving platform. More information on the IU campus is available at [iub.edu](http://iub.edu).



CASCADES GOLF COURSE


## GOLF COURSES

Bloomington has four public golf courses with varying degrees of difficulty. They are **Cascades Golf Course** (27 holes; 9,200 yards), **Eagle Pointe Golf Resort** (18 holes; 6,700 yards), the **Indiana University Golf Course** (18 holes; 6,900 yards) and **Taylor's Par 3** (9 holes). For more information on these golf courses, please contact the Visitors Center at 800-800-0037 or [visitbloomington.com](http://visitbloomington.com).





## GEAR & GUIDES



*If you need some outdoor gear, or want an expert guide to show you around, there are several options in Bloomington.*

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**Indigo Birding Nature Tours** (bird sighting tours)  
812-679-8978 • [indigobirding.com](http://indigobirding.com)

**IU Outdoor Adventures** (equipment rental and guided tours)  
812-855-2231 • [imu.indiana.edu/iuoa](http://imu.indiana.edu/iuoa)

**JL Waters & Co.** (outdoor gear retailer)  
812-334-1845 • [jlwaters.com](http://jlwaters.com)

**Natural Bloomington** (eco-tours)  
812-929-2430 • [naturalbloomington.com](http://naturalbloomington.com)

**Seaview Outfitters** (outdoor gear retailer)  
812-287-8564 • [seaviewoutfitters.com](http://seaviewoutfitters.com)

Beyond the water and past the forests you'll find a lot more to explore in Bloomington. Discover the amazing restaurants, shops, performances, and arts that can satisfy your soul as much as a day on the lake. Go to [visitbloomington.com](http://visitbloomington.com) to make your plans.



**3 LAKES**



**49 SPECIES OF FISH**



**1 THAT GOT AWAY**



**ACRES OF  
PUBLIC FORESTS:**

**15,000**

**NUMBER OF BEARS:**

**0**



**BLOOMINGTON WAS NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S  
TOP 50 ADVENTURE TOWNS BY NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE MAGAZINE**

**800-800-0037**



**VISITBLOOMINGTON.COM**