



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



BIKE · BIRD · FISH · HIKE · PADDLE · WANDER



INDIANA DUNES OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Lace up your hiking boots. Tie down the kayaks. Pack the fishing poles. And don't forget your binoculars. It's time for a new outdoor adventure—Indiana Dunes style.

While you may be familiar with Lake Michigan's southern shoreline, you may not realize that there's far more to discover beyond the beaches of the Indiana Dunes. The Indiana Dunes area is a birding mecca in the spring, a kayaker's oasis on a hot summer day, and an angler's dream on a crisp fall morning.

Whether you prefer your adventures on land or in the water, the Indiana Dunes is the place to take a chance on a new trek. Go beyond the beaches and discover where your Indiana Dunes journey takes you.



Accessible



Camping



Equestrian
Trails



Fee



Gift Shop/
Sales



Hunting



Pet-Friendly



Picnicking



Restrooms/
Portable



Swimming
Beach



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources
(DNR)



Indiana Dunes
National Park
(NPS)



Porter County
Parks & Recreation



Shirley Heinze
Land Trust



Northwest Indiana Regional
Planning Commission (NIRPC)
Greenways + Blueways

**“The dunes are to the Midwest what
the Grand Canyon is to Arizona...They
constitute a signature of time and eternity.”**

—poet Carl Sandburg

Discover
#BeachesandBeyond
outdoor adventures on
social media!

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Find us @IndianaDunes on
Twitter and Instagram
and @IndianaDunesTourism on
Facebook, Pinterest, and YouTube.

ADVENTURES AT A GLANCE

Use our handy chart to discover which locations are perfect for your favorite type of outdoor adventures.

Type of Outdoor Adventure		p. 8	p. 16	p.24	p.34	p.42	p.54
	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
Alyea Park							•
Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve							•
American Discovery Trail		•					
Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area			•	•			•
Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm							•
Barker Woods							•
Beverly Shores Project Area			•				
Bicentennial Park							•
Bluhm County Park		•					
Brincka-Cross Gardens							•
Broken Wagon Bison							•
Brookdale Park				•			•
C&O Greenway		•					
Calumet Bike Trail		•					
Calumet Park						•	
Campbell Street Access						•	
Central Avenue Beach	•					•	
Central Park Plaza							•
Chustak Public Fishing Area				•			
Coffee Creek Park				•			•
Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve			•	•	•		•
Countryside Park and Alton Goin Museum				•			•
Cowles Bog Trail			•		•		
Creek Ridge County Park				•			
Creeside Trails		•					
Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve							•
Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve							•
Deep River County Park					•		
Deep River Water Trail						•	
Deer Trail Park				•			
Drazer Park							•

Type of Outdoor Adventure		p. 8	p. 16	p.24	p.34	p.42	p.54
	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
<i>Dunbar Beach Access</i>	•					•	
<i>Dune Park Station</i>		•					
<i>Dune Succession Trail / Diana of the Dunes Dare</i>					•		
<i>Dunes Kankakee Trail</i>		•					
<i>Dunn's Bridge County Park</i>				•		•	•
<i>East Branch Little Calumet Water Trail</i>				•		•	
<i>East Chicago Marina</i>				•		•	
<i>Erie Lackawanna Trail</i>		•					
<i>Festival Park</i>						•	
<i>Forest Park</i>							•
<i>Foundation Meadows Park and Butterfly Meadows</i>							•
<i>Founders Square Park and Hannah's Hope Playground</i>							•
<i>Friendship Botanic Gardens</i>							•
<i>Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest</i>			•		•		
<i>Gibson Woods Nature Preserve</i>							•
<i>Glenwood Dunes Trail</i>					•		
<i>Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve</i>							•
<i>Grand Illinois Trail</i>		•					
<i>Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park</i>				•		•	
<i>Great Marsh Trail</i>			•				
<i>Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary</i>			•	•			•
<i>Hammond Marina</i>				•		•	
<i>Haven Hollow Park</i>				•			
<i>Hawthorne Park</i>				•			•
<i>Heron Rookery East</i>				•			
<i>Heron Rookery Trail and Reynold's Creek</i>			•				•
<i>Heron Rookery West</i>				•			
<i>Howe Road Bridge</i>						•	
<i>Huber's Annex Marina South</i>				•			
<i>Imagination Glen Park</i>		•		•	•		
<i>Indiana Dunes National Park</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Indiana Dunes State Park</i>	•	•	•		•	•	•
<i>Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center</i>			•				•
<i>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</i>		•	•				•
<i>Iron Horse Trail</i>		•					
<i>Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area</i>			•				

Type of Outdoor Adventure		p. 8	p. 16	p.24	p.34	p.42	p.54
	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
<i>Jerry Pavese Park</i>				•		•	
<i>Johnson Park</i>						•	
<i>Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area</i>			•	•		•	
<i>Kankakee River National Water Trail</i>				•		•	
<i>Kankakee Sands</i>			•				
<i>Kankakee Sands Efroymsen Family Prairie Restoration</i>							•
<i>Karwick Nature Park</i>				•			
<i>Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve</i>						•	•
<i>Kemil Road Beach</i>	•					•	
<i>Kingsbury State Fish and Wildlife Area</i>				•			
<i>Kingsbury Water Trail Access</i>						•	
<i>Lake Michigan Water Trail</i>				•		•	
<i>Lake View Beach Access & Picnic Area</i>	•					•	
<i>Lakeland Park</i>				•			•
<i>Lakes of LaPorte Water Trail</i>				•		•	
<i>LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area</i>				•		•	
<i>Leo Jasinski Public Access</i>						•	
<i>Lincoln Memorial Trail</i>		•					
<i>Little Calumet River Levee Trail</i>		•					
<i>Little Calumet River Trail</i>					•		
<i>Long Lake Public Access</i>				•		•	
<i>Luhr County Park</i>				•			
<i>Marina Shores at Dune Harbor</i>				•			
<i>Marquette Greenway</i>		•					
<i>Marquette Park</i>	•		•	•		•	
<i>Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve</i>							•
<i>Michigan City Harbor (Washington Park Marina)</i>			•				
<i>Monon Trail</i>		•					
<i>Mount Baldy</i>	•						
<i>New Buffalo Beach & Boat Ramp</i>						•	
<i>Oak Ridge Prairie & Oak Savannah Trail</i>		•					
<i>Ogden Gardens Park</i>							•
<i>Outback Trail</i>		•					
<i>Paul H. Douglas Trail and Miller Woods</i>			•		•		
<i>Pennsy Greenway</i>		•					
<i>Pine Lake Marina</i>				•		•	

Type of Outdoor Adventure		p. 8	p. 16	p.24	p.34	p.42	p.54
	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
<i>Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail</i>							•
<i>Port of Indiana - Burns Harbor</i>			•	•			
<i>Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk</i>				•		•	•
<i>Portage Public Marina (Sammie L. Maletta Public Marina)</i>	•			•		•	
<i>Porter Beach</i>	•					•	
<i>Porter-Brickyard Trail</i>		•					
<i>Prairie Duneland Trail</i>		•					
<i>Red Mill County Park</i>				•	•		
<i>Riverview Park</i>						•	
<i>Rogers-Lakewood Park</i>				•	•	•	
<i>Salt Creek Public Fishing Area</i>				•			
<i>Seidner Dune and Swale</i>							•
<i>Shelby Boat Ramp</i>						•	
<i>Soccer and Rugby Field</i>						•	
<i>Soldiers Memorial Park</i>				•			
<i>Steel Wheels BMX Track</i>		•					
<i>Stone Lake Beach</i>	•			•		•	
<i>Stoney Run County Park</i>					•		
<i>Sunset Hill Farm County Park</i>					•		•
<i>The 3 Dune Challenge</i>					•		
<i>Thomas Centennial Park & Chesterton Bandstand</i>							•
<i>Tolleston Dunes Trail</i>					•		
<i>Trail Creek Forks</i>				•			
<i>Trail Creek Marina</i>				•			
<i>U.S. Bike Route #36</i>		•					
<i>Veterans Memorial Park</i>						•	
<i>Veterans Memorial Trail</i>		•					
<i>Washington Park Beach & Zoo</i>	•			•		•	
<i>Wells Street Beach</i>	•					•	
<i>West Beach</i>	•		•		•	•	
<i>Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary</i>			•				•
<i>Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach</i>	•			•		•	•
<i>Winding Creek Cove</i>				•			
<i>Woodland Park</i>							•
<i>Wykes Plampin Nature Preserve</i>				•		•	
<i>Zona Wildlife Sanctuary</i>							•

BICYCLING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/bicycling

Local Expert

“The Outback Trail is a really wonderful trail that’s really close to Chicagoland... It’s definitely one of the better mountain biking trails in the country.”

- Quincy Koetz, Bicycling Expert



Pedal at your own pace, and discover the natural wonders, historical sites, and charming communities just beyond the beach. Whether you're a mountain biker, road warrior, or BMX biker, you'll find what you're looking for in the Indiana Dunes area.

Bicycling Safety Tips

Be Alert and Stay Safe with These Safety Tips

- Wear a helmet and bright-colored clothing.
- Ride on the right side of the road.
- Ride single-file and predictably.
- Watch for cars at intersections and driveways.
- Riding after dark is not recommended, but wear reflective clothing and use a white headlight and rear flashing red light if you do.
- Never use earphones because you won't be able to hear traffic.
- Select routes according to cyclist skill and age.
- Follow the rules of the road and cycling etiquette.
- Keep your bicycle properly maintained.
- Use hand signals before stopping or turning.

Bicycle Rentals

Camp Stop General Store

This beach stop and general store offers bike, kayak, and paddle board rentals.
2 W. Dunes Highway (U.S. 12), Beverly Shores
219-878-1382

[Find them on Facebook](#)

Chesterton Bicycle Station

A multi-service and sales store for bicycles, skateboards, and accessories including clothing, helmets, shoes, and sunglasses. Factory trained service technicians on-site.

Bike rentals available.

116 S. 4th St., Chesterton

219-926-1112

chestertonbicycle.com



BICYCLING TRAILS

American Discovery Trail

Part of the national trail system, the region-wide route links a number of trails including the Pennsy Greenway and Veterans Memorial Trail in Lake County. The route becomes primarily rural east of Crown Point, through Hebron, Kouts, and LaCrosse.

Munster to LaPorte

nirpc.org



Bluhm County Park

This 96-acre park features a 1.5-mile multiple-use trail, as well as six miles of challenging mountain biking trails. The park offers picnicking, shelter rentals, playground equipment, volleyball nets, cornhole (bring your own bags), and a no-leash dog exercise area. There is a small fee.

3855 S. 1100 West, Westville

219-325-8315

laportecountyparks.org



C&O Greenway

C&O Greenway is a paved 1.9-mile trail following the abandoned Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad corridor. The trail starts at Innsbrook Country Club and passes through residential areas in Merrillville.

SR 55 (Taft St.) to Mississippi in Merrillville

nirpc.org



Calumet Bike Trail

This 9.2-mile crushed gravel trail skirts the southern boundaries of Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park from Cowles Bog to Mount Baldy. The route parallels the South Shore Rail Line.

U.S. 12 South, Beverly Shores to N. Mineral Springs Rd.

219-465-3586

portercountyparks.org



Creekside Trails

This city park is home to over five miles of multi-use trails suitable for mountain biking, hiking, and walking. The trails range in difficulty from beginner level to experienced with challenging terrain and optional expert obstacles.

2355 Clifford Rd., Valparaiso

219-462-5144

valpoparks.org



Dunes Kankakee Trail

This trail starts at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and goes north to Indiana Dunes State Park on Lake Michigan. Eventually, the trail is expected to link the dunes in the north to the Kankakee River in the south, as well as going along the river.

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter

219-395-1882

indianadunes.com



Erie Lackawanna Trail

At 17-miles in length, the Erie-Lackawanna Trail represents the longest contiguous off-road trail facility in Northwest Indiana. The paved trail connects Hammond and Crown Point, which were once important rail junctions. This trail connects to Oak Savannah Trail, Monon Trail, and the Little Calumet River Levee Trail.

Hammond to Crown Point

219-853-6300

traillink.com



Grand Illinois Trail

The 535-mile Grand Illinois Trail loops through Northern Illinois and connects to the Pennsy Greenway Trail in Indiana. The trail is a mix of paved roads and limestone trails.

Chicago, IL

nirpc.org



Imagination Glen Park

The 276-acre Imagination Glen Park is home to the Outback Mountain Trail, a 10-mile mountain biking trail. Beginners and novices can try the Front Side loop, while experts can take on the Dark Side black diamond trail.

2275 McCool Rd., Portage

219-762-1675

inportageparks.com

**Iron Horse Heritage Trail**

The five-mile Iron Horse Heritage Trail runs east-west through the City of Portage, from Imagination Glen Park east (where the Iron Horse connects with the Prairie Duneland Trail) west to Hamstrom Road.

State Rd. 149 (0.75-mile south of U.S. 20), Portage
219-762-1675

inportageparks.com

**Lincoln Memorial Trail**

This 1.2 mile loop trail starts at Bluhm Park East near Westville. The trail has a paved and an unpaved portion, which run side-by-side, allowing hikers and bicyclists to share the road.

10335 W. 350 South, Westville
219-325-8315

laportecountyparks.org

**Little Calumet River Levee Trail**

This six-mile asphalt trail roughly follows the Little Calumet River and passes by several local parks. Most of the trail is off-road, but some short segments are either on-road or atop river levees. It connects to the Erie Lackawanna Trail.

Munster to Gary

nirpc.org

**Marquette Greenway**

The Marquette Greenway is a planned regional trail made up of 20 smaller trail segments. When all segments are complete, the trail will stretch 55-miles from the Illinois border to New Buffalo, MI, connecting Lake Michigan's shoreline communities.

Illinois to Michigan

nirpc.org

**Monon Trail**

Monon Trail is a 4.4-mile paved trail that connects the Erie Lackawanna Trail to the Pennsy Greenway and Little Calumet River Levee Trail.

The Monon Trail Bridge, created from historic rail trestle beams, crosses over the Little Calumet River. The trailhead in Munster has seating areas and a fountain.

Hammond to Munster

nirpc.org





Oak Ridge Prairie & Oak Savannah Trail

This beautiful 10-mile trail traverses through savannahs, remnant prairies, wetlands, lakes, parks, and urban environments. The trail starts at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park to the west, snakes through downtown Hobart, and connects to the Prairie-Duneland Trail to the east.

Griffith to Hobart

219-769-7275

nps.gov/indu



Outback Trail

This is a 10-mile multi-use mountain biking trail in Portage's Imagination Glen Park. The trail is available for use by hikers, bikers, runners, and birdwatchers. Three miles on the western side of Salt Creek is available for beginner-intermediate riders, and seven miles on the eastern side of Salt Creek is available for intermediate-advanced riders.

2275 McCool Rd., Portage

219-762-1675

outbacktrail.org

Pennsy Greenway

Pennsy Greenway is a multi-use trail that runs between Lansing, IL and Schererville, IN. This converted railway trail has three separate paved segments with eventual plans to connect all portions into one trail. Pennsy Greenway connects to Monon Trail.

Lansing, IL to Crown Point

nirpc.org



Porter-Brickyard Trail

The Porter-Brickyard Trail features forest views, bridges over U.S. 20 and U.S. 12, and a way to get from the Prairie Duneland Trail to the Calumet Bike Trail. Parking is available at U.S. 12 and Mineral Springs Rd.

U.S. 12 and Mineral Springs Rd., Porter

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Prairie-Duneland Trail

One of Indiana's "crown jewel" trails, the Prairie Duneland Trail traverses some of the most beautiful natural areas in the state. The 10.3-mile rail-trail passes through remnant tallgrass prairies, dense forest canopies, river, and residential areas. The trail connects to Imagination Glen Park.

*S. Jackson Blvd., Chesterton
to County Line Rd., Portage*
219-762-1675

inportageparks.com



Steel Wheels BMX Track

Steel Wheels BMX, located in Imagination Glen Park East, hosts ABA-sanctioned races on its indoor and outdoor tracks. The facility includes a concession area, announcing tower, staging area, and finish line. Admission is free for spectators. Be sure to call ahead for detailed information on public riding.

2190 State Rd. 149, Portage
219-406-9833

steelwheelsbmx.com

U.S. Bike Route #36

U.S. Bike Route #36 is a 58.7-mile regional route between Illinois and Michigan, which includes 35 miles of off-road trails. The route starts in Hammond, IN and connects to the Erie Lackawanna Trail and runs along the Oak Savannah and Prairie Duneland trails. The route leads to the Indiana Dunes National Park and eventually terminates at the Michigan State line. *Southwest Michigan to Chicago*

nirpc.org



Veterans Memorial Trail

This planned trail will run from Crown Point to Hebron with stops at several current and planned veteran memorials.

Crown Point to Hebron

nirpc.org



Shake Off the Sand South of the Dunes

Ride at your own pace, and explore the small-town charm, beautiful landscapes, and local flavor south of the dunes. Discover the self-guided Indiana Dunes Bike Tour at indianadunes.com/bike-tour.

BIKES ON TRAINS

Take your bike on labeled, bike-friendly trains available on select days from April to October.

HOW TO RIDE

In three easy steps, you and your bike are on your way:

- 1 FIND A BIKE-FRIENDLY TRAIN CAR**
Bike-friendly train cars with bike racks are identified with the bike symbol prominently located on the windows of the train car.
- 2 GET YOUR BIKE ON THE TRAIN CAR**
Enter and exit the bike-friendly cars through the center doors and insert your bike into one of the self-locking bike racks. Bike racks are provided free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 3 RIDE THE TRAIN**
Access trails and attractions along the southern shores of Lake Michigan from Chicago to Dune Park.

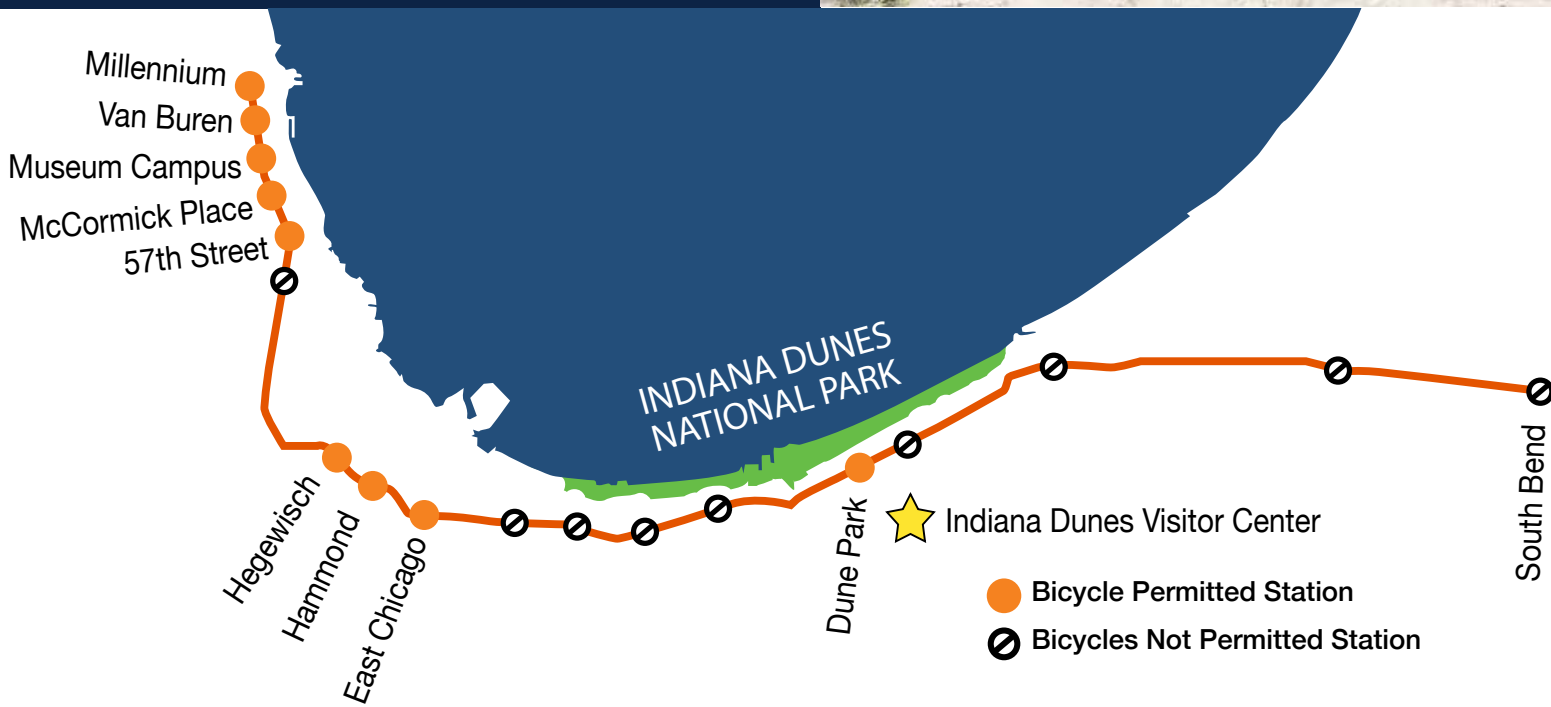


READY TO RIDE?
VISIT [MYSOUTHSHORELINE.COM/BIKES](https://mysouthshoreline.com/bikes)
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



DUNE PARK STATION

Junction of IN-49 and U.S. 12.
33 East U.S. 12, Chesterton
219-926-5744
mysouthshoreline.com



INDIANA DUNES BICYCLING TOUR

Sand South of the Dunes...

While best known for its world-class beaches, the Indiana Dunes and its surrounding communities offer so much more to explore. Culinary delights and exhilarating outdoor adventures are waiting for you.

Explore the small-town charm, beautiful landscapes, and local flavor south of the dunes on this self-guided bicycling tour. You can follow our itinerary or make it your own—ride just one part, break it up into an overnight adventure, or take on the whole route!

Day One: Ride from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to Chesterton

This six-mile tour takes you down the Porter Brickyard Trail and ends in downtown Chesterton where you can visit local breweries, wineries, restaurants, and boutique shops.

Day Two: Ride from Chesterton to Valparaiso

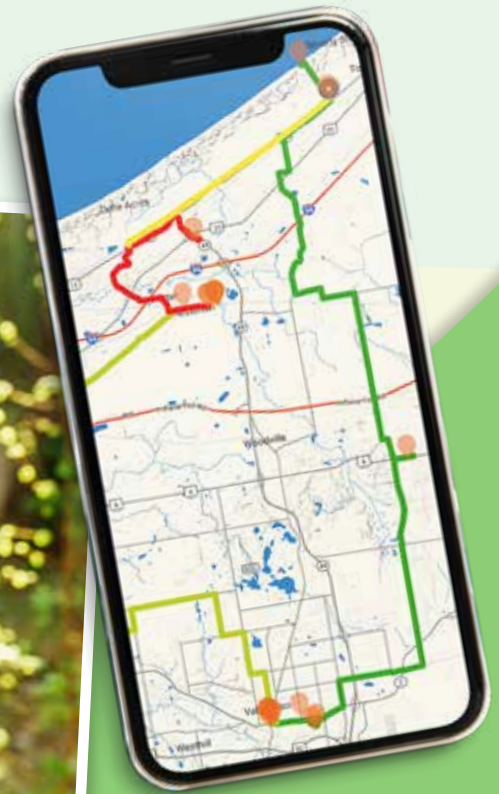
This 26-mile tour follows Prairie Duneland Trail and several county roads on its way to Valparaiso. You'll pass through Portage and Hobart, where you'll find Broken Wagon Bison. The tour ends in downtown Valparaiso where you can stroll down Lincolnway to see its many restaurants, bars, and unique shops.

Day Three: Ride from Valparaiso to Lake View Beach

This 22-mile leg of the tour continues through Valparaiso, passing by Valparaiso University where you'll find the Brauer Museum of Art and the Chapel of the Resurrection. The tour heads back north, ending with views of Lake Michigan at Lake View Beach.

Ready to get out and ride?

Pick your route at indianadunes.com/bike-tour.



BIRDING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/birding

Local Expert

“Indiana Dunes State Park contains some of the best examples of the dunes habitats, and as such, also hosts the most bird species—not only in the Indiana Dunes region, but the entire state.”

- Brad Bumgardner, Birding Expert



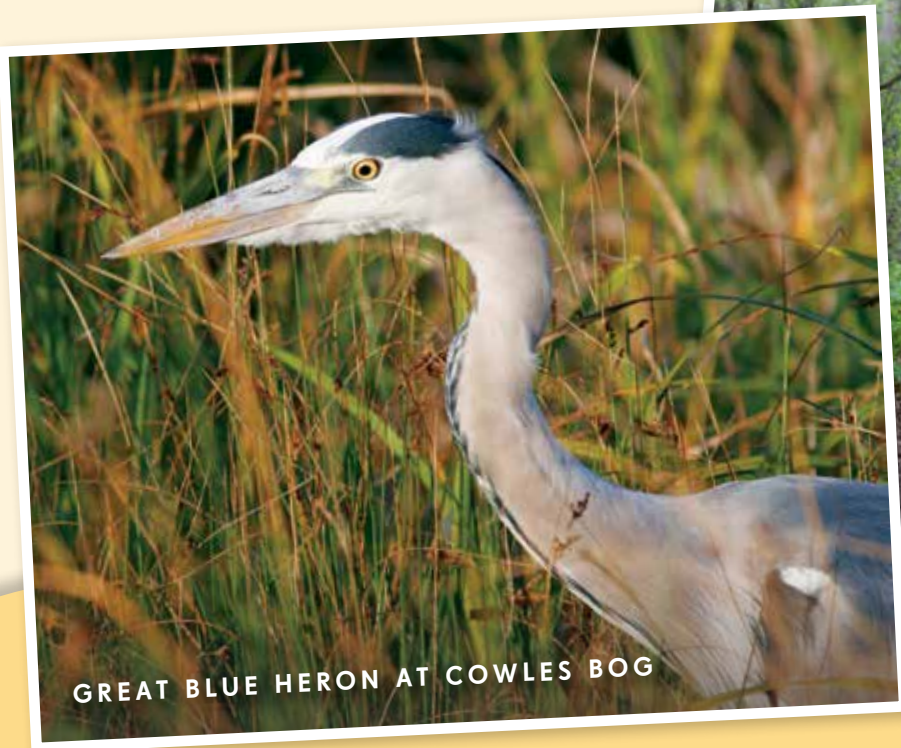
Due to the open waters of Lake Michigan and the surrounding beaches, dunes, wetlands, forests, and prairies, the Indiana Dunes offers spectacular birding throughout the year, especially during spring and fall migrations.

Migration Sensation

Why do so many birds migrate through here? The massive size of Lake Michigan profoundly affects the flight routes of migratory birds. During the fall, birds that have nested in the north follow the long shores of Lake Michigan further south and converge at the bottom of the lake—right here in the Indiana Dunes. Whether they're here to nest or just stopping for a rest, you'll see birds seldom recorded anywhere else in the Midwest.

Weather Watch

Migrating birds tend to fly during fair weather, especially when they have a good wind helping them along. In the spring, birders tend to see the most migrating raptors on days with a strong southerly wind, and in the fall, frequent cold fronts funnel migrating songbirds and waterbirds straight to the Indiana Dunes.



Indiana Dunes Tourism expresses a heartfelt thanks to Ken Brock, Brad Bumgardner, and Sandra Wilmore for their local birding expertise and contributions to this guide.



BIRDING LOCATIONS

Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area

This 650-acre parcel conserves a mix of wetlands, black oak barrens, and sand prairie, offering wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting. Aukiki is part of the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project. The Grand Kankakee Marsh was one of the largest freshwater wetland complexes in the United States, encompassing 500,000 acres in eight counties. *State Rd. 49, Wheatfield*
219-285-2184

nature.org/en-us



Beverly Shores Project Area

Park at Lake View Picnic Area to bird the open water and beach. Bike or bird along the west end of Beverly Drive. This area includes beautiful open waters and beach habitats, but its most unique draw is its rare interdunal marsh.

500 S. Broadway Ave., Beverly Shores
219-395-1882

heinzetrust.org



Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

This beautiful 167-acre preserve showcases an inspiring and aesthetically stunning marriage of nature and culture. The natural landscape includes a mix of restored prairie, creek, wetlands, and woodlands. Preserve planners have added human infrastructure to that natural setting and have done so with careful planning and exquisite attention to aesthetics, function, and environmental responsibility. Interpretive signage enhances the experience.

2401 Village Point, Chesterton
219-926-1842

coffeecreekwvc.org



Cowles Bog Trail

Considered a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA), this site supports several nesting wetland birds that are species of conservation concern in Indiana, including American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Virginia Rail, American Black Duck, and a large population of Marsh Wren.

1450 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest

Situated atop the Valparaiso moraine, Gabis offers more than 300 acres of woody plant collections, formal gardens, wetlands, woodlands, and prairies. Originally named Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, its founders envisioned Gabis as a place where people could come to be refreshed and restored, find inspiration and creativity in nature, and learn about horticulture and ecology.

450 W. 100 North, Valparaiso
219-462-0025

pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum



Great Marsh Trail

Just a short stroll to an accessible observation platform provides a great view of this recently restored wetland. Wading birds like herons and egrets and songbirds such as warblers and red-winged blackbirds are again abundant. During migration periods, see flocks of ducks and geese. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope for the best views.

500 S. Broadway Ave., Beverly Shores
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary

A truly unexpected find. A small, 600-meter tract nestled in the middle of an industrial area may not seem worth exploring, but this one is! Known by locals simply as the "migrant trap," the lakefront and bird sanctuary is a hidden birding paradise. As you crisscross the site on a narrow footpath, keep your eyes open for neotropical bird species that use this small space as a critical stopover during migrations. 701 Casino Center Dr., Hammond 219-853-6378

indianaaudubon.org

Heron Rookery Trail and Reynold's Creek

For more than 60 years, herons nested here along the Little Calumet River. Though the heron rookery is no longer active, the 1.6-mile trail is a good spot for viewing other bird species. National Park resource managers conduct prescribed burns to maintain open savanna habitat.

1320 N. 600 East, Michigan City 219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Indiana Dunes State Park

The park attracts breeding birds more commonly found farther south (including WatchList species Prairie Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush), as well as more northerly species (Canada and Blackburnian Warblers). Migration sightings include such WatchList species as Kirtland's, Golden-winged, and Bay-breasted Warblers. The west lot observation area is known for several state record species counts. 1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton 219-926-1952

on.in.gov/indianadunes



Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area

This gem of a wildlife area conserves 8,062 acres of wetland, upland, and woodland habitat, providing an ideal stopover for migratory birds. Beginning in late September, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, ducks, and occasionally even federally endangered whooping cranes gather here. By mid-November—peak fall viewing time—daily crane counts swell to 15,000 or more. Visitors are required to check in at the headquarters office.

5822 Fish and Wildlife Ln., Medaryville 219-843-4841

in.gov/dnr



Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

Designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, the 4,199-acre Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area is part of the Grand Kankakee Marsh region.

4320 W. Toto Rd., North Judson 574-896-3522

in.gov/dnr



Kankakee Sands

Kankakee Sands conserves more than 7,000 acres of prairie, savanna, and wetlands—habitat for some of the fastest declining bird species in North America, including northern bobwhite, grasshopper sparrow, and American bittern. Kankakee Sands is also home to several bird species that are endangered or threatened in Indiana.

3294 N. U.S. 41, Morocco 219-285-2184

nature.org/kankakeesands



Birding Ethics

- Respect wildlife homes. Leave nests and their occupants as you found them.
- In no-hunt areas, blend in with your surroundings. Wear neutral-colored clothing and move slowly and quietly.
- Avoid the use of recordings, calls, or whistles to attract birds, as they can disrupt the birds' normal feeding, mating, and brood-rearing activities.
- View birds from a distance to avoid disturbing them.
- Stay on trails and respect private property.
- Share your lunch only with other humans.

Share your adventures using [#beachesandbeyond](https://twitter.com/beachesandbeyond).



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK AT GREAT MARSH TRAIL



Marquette Park

This 241-acre park is considered an Important Bird Area due to its location at the extreme southern point of Lake Michigan and its beach, dune, and oak savanna habitats.

1 N. Grand Blvd., Gary
219-938-7362

marquetteparkgary.org



Michigan City Harbor (Washington Park Marina)

This harbor is a favorite lakefront birding site just miles from the Michigan State line in Northwest Indiana. East of Trail Creek, low dunes offer prime viewing of heavy bird movement along the lake.

200 Heisman Harbor Rd.,

Michigan City
219-872-1712

mcmarina.org

Paul H. Douglas Trail and Miller Woods

Birders consider this 75-acre natural oasis near the industry and urban environs of Gary among the best birding sites in the region. Black oaks dominate savanna woodlands that are home to 287 recorded species of plants and animals. Ecologist Henry Cowles spent much time studying the Miller Woods area.

100 N. Lake St., Gary

219-395-1824

nps.gov/indu



Port of Indiana - Burns Harbor

Why include a major industrial site among the best cultural and natural sites in the Beyond the Beach region? Because this site offers a captivating look at both the nature and culture of this region. Twelve steel processors dominate the port landscape, and the site's protected waters attract great numbers of migrating and wintering birds.

6625 S. Boundary Dr., Portage

portsofindiana.com



West Beach

The Dune Succession Trail links with two others in the national park system, covering a total of 3.6 miles. As the name suggests, this trail is a great place to see ecological dune succession at work. See amazing dunes, and interdunal ponds close up as you traverse a mile along the boardwalks.

376 N. County Line Rd., Gary

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Impressive restoration work continues to make this former dumping site a shorebird sanctuary, suitable for migrating birds to rest, feed, and prepare for their continued journeys. A parking lot, picnic shelter, and benches have all been recently added. Elevated walkways for bird enthusiasts continue to be constructed. See not only species common to the area but also rare migratory types.

1050 S. 11th St., Chesterton

219-427-8247

westchesterbird.org

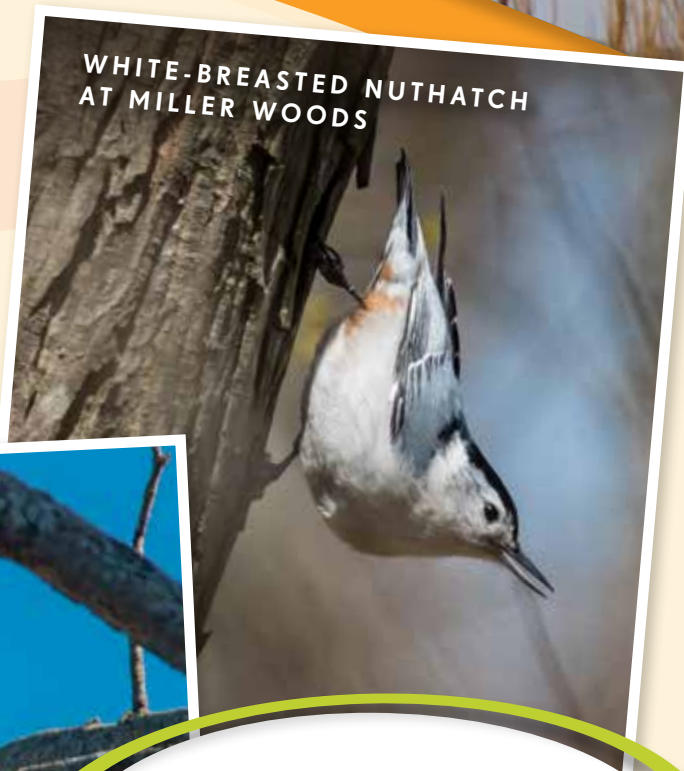




A Birder's Paradise

“Little did I know, an oasis was right under my nose...What I usually saw from the Interstate was Industrial plants and refineries...Not exactly the landscape I equate with forests, dunes, marshes, and wildlife such as birds.”

— Jan Lewis, Birding Enthusiast



Find more birding adventures
at indianadunes.com/birding

Diana of the Dunes Dare

Dare to Be Different? Embrace the Dunes.

In honor of the daring and free spirit of Alice Mabel Gray, also known as Diana, a nearby sand hill has been named "Diana's Dune." You can now hike in a local legend's footsteps at Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach. Explore the natural wonders of her beloved Dunes terrain while learning about dune development.

GET STARTED

The Diana of the Dunes Dare is a self-guided trail at Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach, 376 N. County Line Rd., Gary 46403. The trail is marked, and you can take the dare any day of the year. There is a fee to enter West Beach.

Dune Succession

Follow the trail to learn about the four stages of dune development. This scenic, but strenuous, trail includes a climb up quite a few stairs (can you count them all?) for a spectacular view of Lake Michigan.

REWARD YOURSELF

After you beat the dare, buy a Diana of the Dunes Dare shirt or hoodie and pick up a free sticker from the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter, IN 46304.

You can take the dare any day of the week, all year round. Learn more at indianadunes.com/ddd.



The Diana of the Dunes Dare is just an hour drive from Chicago.

Backpacks for Birders

The Backpacks for Birders program offers free rental backpacks for daily use. Each pack contains two sets of binoculars, a birding list, and three books: *Birding Basics*, *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds*, and *Birds of the Indiana Dunes*.

Visit any of the locations below to borrow a backpack. Just leave your name and contact information, and get to birding. The best part is, it's free!

Call for Hours and Info:

Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

2401 Village Pt. Rd., Chesterton
219-926-1842
coffeecreekwc.org

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest

450 W. 100 North, Valparaiso
219-462-0025
pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum

Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center

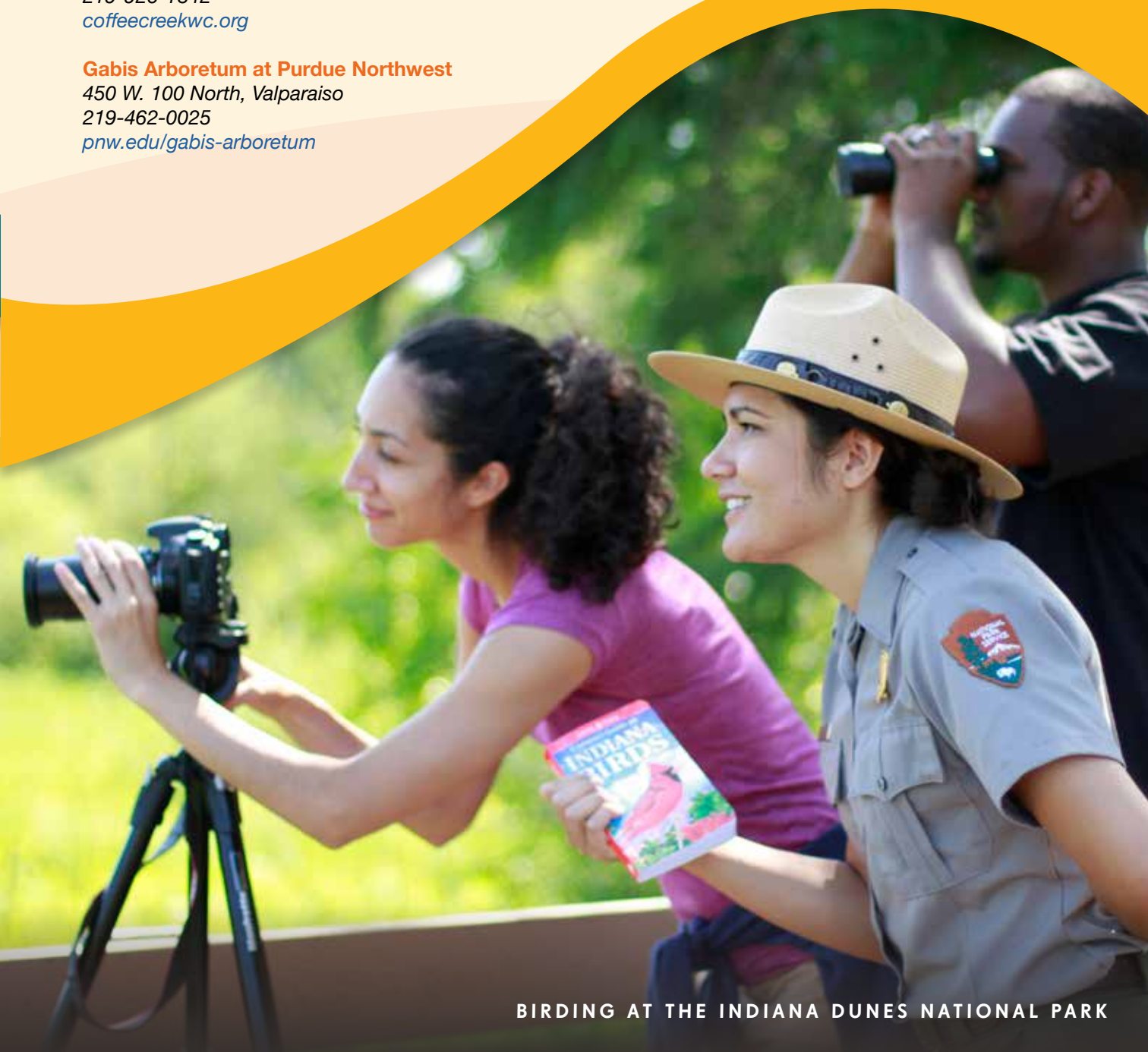
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
219-926-1390
on.in.gov/indianadunessp

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

1215 N. St. Rd. 49, Porter
219-395-1882
indianadunes.com

Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

100 N. Lake St., Gary
219-395-1824
nps.gov/indu



FISHING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/fishing

Local Expert

“People are always surprised when I tell them my favorite fishing is in the winter along the Little Calumet River in the Indiana Dunes National Park. You get to share nature with the deer, turkeys, and, of course, the fish.”

- Mike Ryan, Fishing Expert



During the last Ice Age, glaciers created diverse regions stretching from wide-open Lake Michigan to the shores of the Kankakee River. Here, you can fish Lake Michigan tributaries winding through community parks and secluded nature, or head out for some quiet boat or shore fishing on the smaller lakes and streams dotting the landscape south of the dunes.

Seasons

Spring

From March to mid-May, fishermen troll with spoons, spinners, dodgers, and flies for coho salmon along a two-mile band of Lake Michigan shore. Shoreline anglers say that April is the best month for catching Coho in the spring.

Summer

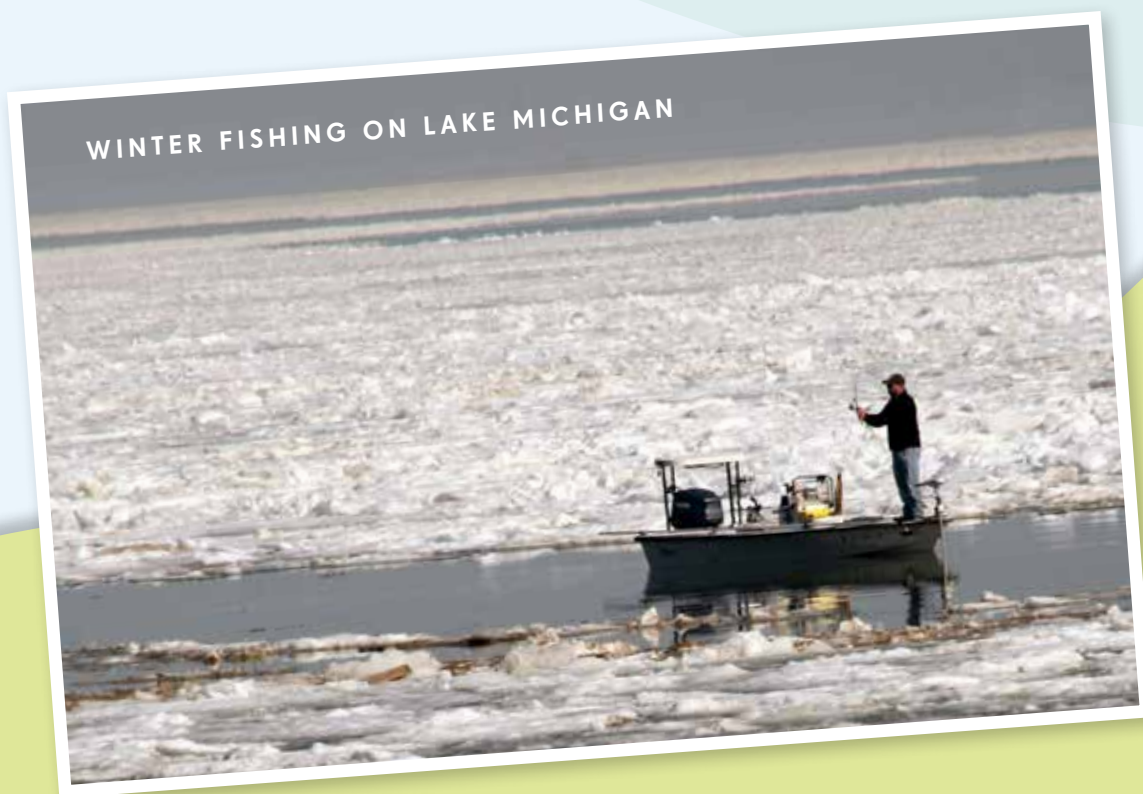
From May to July, as water temperatures rapidly increase, boat fishermen pursue trout and salmon that have retreated to cooler offshore waters. Fishing at depths ranging between 70 and 100 feet with a distance of six to 20 miles from shore, downriggers are used to drop lures for lake trout, coho salmon, chinook, and steelhead.

Fall

From September to early November, lake trout and brown trout can be caught along the shoreline. Indiana's stocking program supports sport fishing in the fall, but for the greatest concentration of fish, head to the Port of Indiana, which is close to a major stocking site.

Winter

From January through March, fishing is popular on inland lakes, fast-current streams, and warm water discharges along Lake Michigan's shoreline. Warm water discharge fishing produces good catches of brown trout in addition to steelhead and coho salmon.



Indiana Dunes Tourism would like to express heartfelt thanks to Ryan Koepke and Mike and Janet Ryan for their contribution to the information in this guide.

FISHING LOCATIONS

East Branch Little Calumet River

The Little Calumet River meanders through woodlands from Porter County to LaPorte County with salmon, trout, bass, bluegill, carp, and catfish as the most common catches. Spots to fish include a number of town parks that have shoreline fishing.

Deer Trail Park

Ameriplex Dr., Portage
219-762-1675
inportageparks.com



Hawthorne Park

500 Ackerman Dr., Porter
219-983-1042
townofporter.com



Heron Rookery East

1336 N. 600 East, Michigan City
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Heron Rookery West

1301 N. 450 East, Chesterton
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Portage Public Marina (Sammie L. Maletta Public Marina)

1200 Marina Way, Portage
219-763-6833
portagein.gov



Red Mill County Park

0185 S. Holmesville Rd., LaPorte
219-325-8315
laportecountyparks.org



Wykes Plampin Nature Preserve

Brummit Rd., Chesterton
219-24 2-8558
heinzetrust.org



Best Bait

- To fish salmon, most anglers use a medium-heavy action rod with a 10 to 12-pound test line.
- Flies with the most success include black or brown stoneflies, chartreuse flies, green and orange wooly worms, egg sucking leeches, and many others depending upon the time of year and the presentation of the flies to the fish.
- Medium spoons, plugs, spinners, and body baits are used for Chinook.
- Nightcrawlers and wax worms are often successful, especially in summer.
- Small spinners or rooster tails work well for steelhead.
- Smaller spoons and spinners are used for Coho.
- Spawn sacks are used throughout the year.

Kankakee River

Farthest south in the region lies the Kankakee River, where northern pike, catfish, walleye, bass, and bluegill are common. Fishing the Kankakee is a place to immerse yourself in nature for a quiet experience.

Aukiki Wetland

Conservation Area

State Rd. 49, Wheatfield
219-285-2184

igkmrp.org



Dunn's Bridge County Park

500 E. and the Kankakee River, Kouts
219-465-3586

portercountyparks.com



Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

21690 Range Line Rd., Hebron
219-769-7275

lakecountyparks.com



Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

4320 W. Toto Rd., North Judson
574-896-3522

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Kingsbury State Fish and Wildlife Area

5344 S. Hupp Rd., LaPorte
219-393-3612

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area

4752 W. 1050 North, Lake Village
219-992-3019

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Lake George

This large lake in Hobart has largemouth bass, bowfin, catfish, green sunfish, bluegill, carp, and drum. There is a concrete boat launch, but also a number of fishing piers at the city parks that surround the lake.

Jerry Pavese Park

500 S. Lake Park Ave., Hobart
219-942-2987

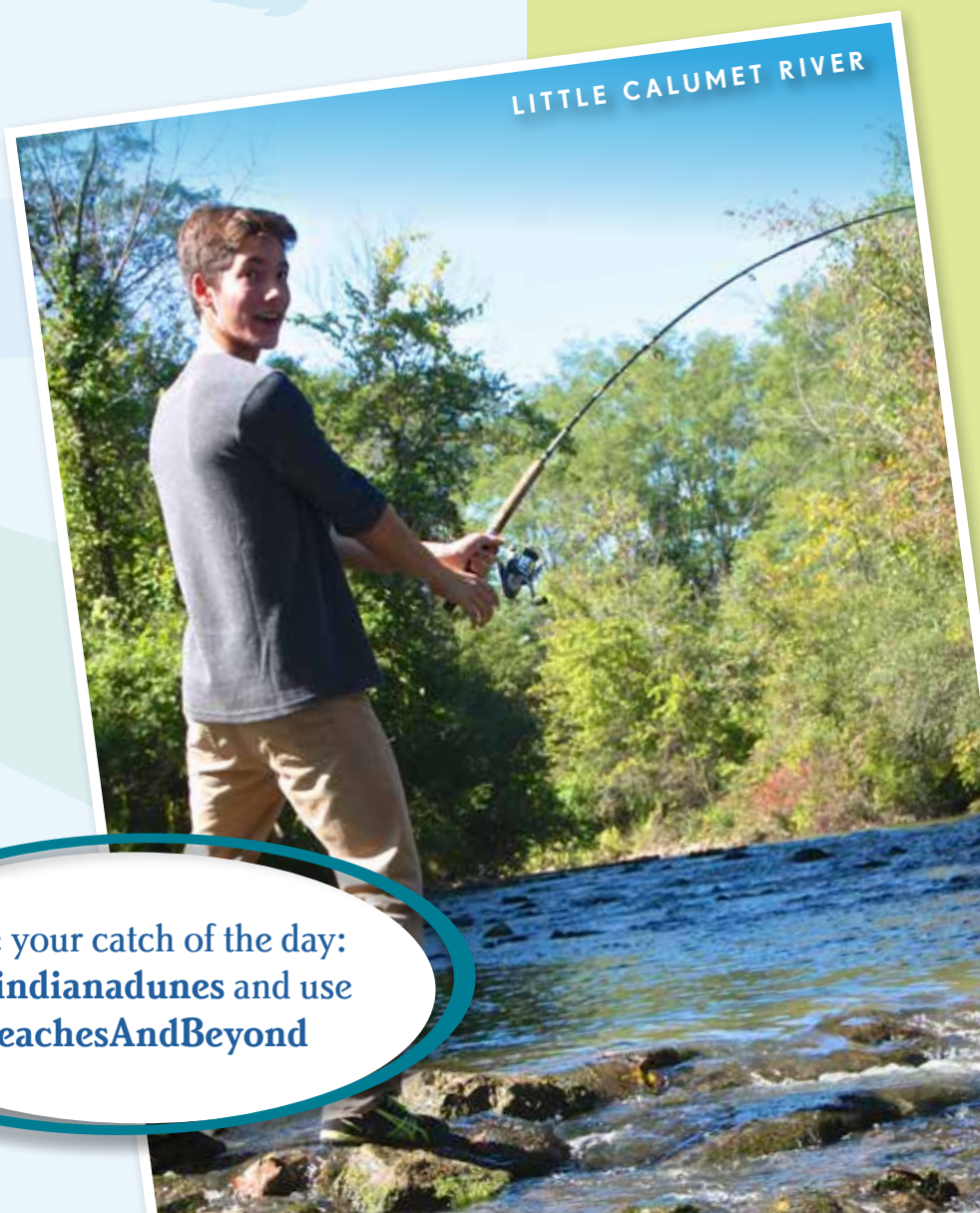
cityofhobart.org



DNR

Indiana Department of
Natural Resources

Consult the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' website and guides before fishing in the Indiana Dunes or surrounding areas. Information on the website includes fishing reports, an interactive "Where to Fish" map, the state fishing guide, and special rules and regulations. Daily bag limits, minimum sizes, and fish consumption advisories are all regularly updated on the DNR website at in.gov/dnr/fishwild.



Share your catch of the day:
tag [@indianadunes](#) and use
[#BeachesAndBeyond](#)

Lake Michigan

With 43 miles of shoreline in Indiana, Lake Michigan is a fishing adventure waiting to happen. The most common catches include coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, and smallmouth.

East Chicago Marina

3301 Aldis St., East Chicago
219-391-8482
eastchicago.com



Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary

701 Casino Center Dr., Hammond
219-853-6378
indianaaudubon.org



Hammond Marina

701 Casino Center Dr., Hammond
219-659-7678
hammondmarina.com



Marina Shores at Dune Harbor

6159 S. Dune Harbor Dr., Portage
219-762-5700
marinashoresindiana.com



Marquette Park

1 N. Grand Blvd., Gary
219-938-7362
marquetteparkgary.org



Port of Indiana - Burns Harbor

6625 S. Boundary Dr., Portage
219-787-8636
portsofindiana.com



Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

6150 U.S. 12 (100 Riverwalk Dr.),
Portage
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Washington Park Beach & Zoo

6 on the Lake, Michigan City
219-873-1506
mcparksandrec.com



Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach

1500 Park Rd., Whiting
219-659-0860
whitingindiana.com



LaPorte Lakes

Pine and Stone Lakes total 564 acres, and largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, perch, and walleye are common between the two connected lakes. Boat rentals are available from Pine Lake Marina and Huber's Annex South.

Huber's Annex Marina South

1207 Pink Lake Ave., LaPorte
800-374-8985
hubersmarine.com



Pine Lake Marina

908 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte
219-402-1120
boatpinelake.com



Soldiers Memorial Park

250 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte
219-326-9600
cityoflaporte.com



Stone Lake Beach

300 Grangemouth Rd., LaPorte
219-326-9600
cityoflaporte.com



Salt Creek

Running north to south through the South Haven area of Porter County, Salt Creek offers peaceful shoreline fishing. Largemouth bass, salmon, and trout are common. Two state public fishing areas are maintained along the creek.

Chustak Public Fishing Area

W. 600 North Rd., Valparaiso
219-879-5710
fishing.IN.gov

Haven Hollow Park

330 W. 700 North, South Haven
219-759-5471
portagetrustee.org



Imagination Glen Park

2275 McCool Rd., Portage
219-762-1675
inportageparks.com



Salt Creek Public Fishing Area

W. 500 North Rd., Valparaiso
219-879-5710
fishing.IN.gov

Small Creeks

Creeks in the Indiana Dunes are wonderful spots for fly-fishing and for catching trout. Coffee Creek provides a rural fishing experience unique from other creeks in the area.

Coffee Creek Park

246 E. Morgan Ave., Chesterton
219-926-1842
chestertonin.org



Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

2401 Village Point, Chesterton
219-926-1842
coffeecreekwc.org





Small Lakes

You'll find no shortage of peaceful ponds and lakes for your fishing adventures. Fishing pole rentals are available at Luhr County Park and Rogers-Lakewood Park, and both Rogers-Lakewood Park and Lakeland Park offer rowboat and paddleboat rentals.

Brookdale Park

919 N. 50 West, Chesterton
219-465-3586

portercountyparks.org



Countryside Park and Alton Goin Museum

5250 U.S. 6, Portage
219-762-1675

inportageparks.com



Lakeland Park

1200 Lakeland Dr., Burns Harbor
219-787-8126

burnsharbor-in.gov



Long Lake Public Access

E. 600 North Rd., Valparaiso
219-879-5710

fishing.in.gov

Luhr County Park

3178 S. 150 West, LaPorte
219-324-5855

laportecountyparks.org



Rogers Lakewood Park

5320 N. Meridian Rd., Valparaiso
219-462-5144

valpoparks.org



Trail Creek

Trail Creek is a tributary of Lake Michigan with many types of fishing, including fly fishing, spin fishing, and drift/float fishing. Rainbow trout, steelhead, brown trout, and Coho and chinook salmon are most commonly caught.



Creek Ridge County Park

7943 W. 400 North, Michigan City
219-325-8315

laportecountyparks.org



Karwick Nature Park

700 S. Karwick Rd.,
Michigan City
219-874-7799

michigancityparks.com

Trail Creek Forks

U.S. 20, just east of Johnson Rd.,
Michigan City
219-873-1506

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Trail Creek Marina

700 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City
219-872-1712



Winding Creek Cove

East 8th St. and North Dickson St.,
Michigan City
219-873-1506

michigancityparks.com



Bait and Tackle Shops

Bass Pro Shop

6425 Daniel Burnham Dr.,
Portage
219-787-6800
basspro.com

Cabela's

7700 Cabela Dr., Hammond
219-845-9040
cabelas.com

Chief's Bait Shop and Tony's Motors

1114 W. 4th St., Michigan City
219-874-4086
tonysoutboard.com

Country Bait & Taxidermy

2 1/2 W. U.S. 6, Valparaiso
219-464-9932
Find them on Facebook

Slez's Bait & Tackle

2245 Randolph St.,
Lake Station
219-588-5929
Find them on Facebook

Stan's Bait & Tackle

938 Hoffman St., Highland
219-315-0303
Find them on Facebook

LAKE MICHIGAN

Fish-On

Portage's Annual Outdoor and Fishing Show

Every February, the Greater Portage Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Sea Quest Lures, hosts its Annual Fishing and Outdoor Show. All outdoor events are showcased including hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, archery, kayaking, hiking, bird watching, and more. Seminars, booths, a children's area, and other activities are offered.

2100 Willowcreek Rd.,
Portage, IN 46368
219-762-3300
portageinchamber.com





Boat Rentals

CMS Marine Boat and Jet Ski Rentals
6159 Dune Harbor
(at Marina Shores), Portage
219-508-3195
cmsmarinerentals.com

Miller's Marine Center
1305 State Road 249,
Portage
219-762-8767
mwmarina.com

Charter Fishermen

Brother Nature Charter Fishing
877-725-6665
brother-nature.com

Rainmaker Charters
219-762-9336 or 800-762-9336
lakemichigansportfishing.com

Schellfish Sportfishing Charters
708-672-4454
schellfishcharters.com

Triplecatch Charters
219-588-5929
Find them on Facebook

Wild Dog Tackle & Good Guyde Service
847-420-3046
wilddogguide.com

Charter Boat Fishing

Head to Portage and hook up with one of the many charter boat companies. Discover Lake Michigan's hot spots, where you can catch salmon, trout, and perch. Most charter boat companies offer both half day and full day charters. Charter fishing season begins early March and concludes early December. All the fishing gear is provided by the charter boat companies.

Just remember to...

- Check to see if your charter boat sells fishing licenses and trout stamps.
- Bring a large cooler and plastic bags to store fish.
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, soft-soled shoes, and a hat.
- Pack snacks and drinks or ask if lunch is provided when booking.
- Wear warm clothing and rain gear.



Important Information

Fishing Licenses

Unless otherwise exempted, you must have a valid fishing license to fish in public lakes, streams, rivers, or tributaries in Indiana or its boundary waters. A valid trout/salmon stamp is also required to fish for or take trout and salmon from public waters. License holders must carry their license while fishing and present it upon request to any authorized law enforcement official.

How to buy a license:

For information on purchasing a fishing license, contact the Indiana DNR Customer Service Center. You can purchase a license online, by mail, over the phone, or in person at one of approximately 500 locations statewide.

Department of Natural Resources Customer Service Center

402 W. Washington St., Room W160, Indianapolis
317-232-4200

eregulations.com/indiana/fishing

You don't need a license to fish if...

- You're an Indiana resident born before April 1, 1943.
- You're under the age of 18.
- You have a developmental disability.
- You're legally blind.
- You're a resident of a state-owned mental rehabilitation facility.
- You're a resident of any licensed healthcare facility in Indiana.
- You're a resident engaged in full-time military service on approved military leave.

Please Protect Our Waters

- Avoid in-water hull scraping. Paints used on hulls discourage marine growth and can be harmful to aquatic organisms.
- Do not dump unused minnows into the water. Some may be unwanted species that mature and cause problems. Instead, discard unused bait in the trash.
- Equipment should be dry for five days before being used in another body of water.
- Inspect your boat and trailer to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- All equipment should have mud and vegetation removed. Water should also be drained from the boat's bilge, bait buckets, and other water-holding areas.
- Keep your engine tuned to minimize leaks and look for contractors or marinas that offer a bilge pump-out service.



HIKING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/hiking

Local Expert

“We love the Dune Succession Trail at West Beach, which features a moderate hike including several scenery changes, from dunes and a view of Chicago’s skyline.”

- Switchback Kids, Hiking Experts



From leisurely strolls to hardy hikes, the Indiana Dunes area is a biodiverse landscape of dunes, barrens, prairies, forests, and wetlands packed with great sites to explore. Climb a living dune or walk amongst the native plants and wildflowers that inspired the birth of ecology. For a change of scenery, you can even take a walk through the area's many historic sites, museums, preserves, and parks.

Hiking Safety Tips

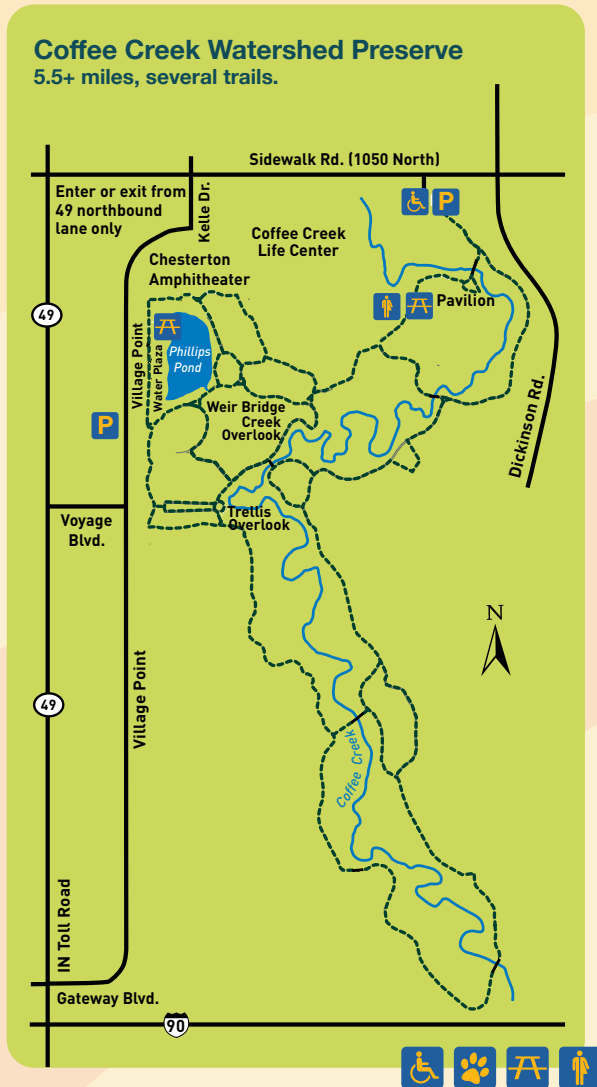
The National Park Service Recommends Hiking Smart

- Call or stop by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to ask about the trail conditions.
- Bring a compass, map, or GPS.
- Wear sturdy and durable shoes.
- Choose appropriate clothing for the season.
- Wear sunscreen or clothing that protects from the sun.
- Bring enough water to stay hydrated.
- Don't forget to bring snacks to keep your energy up.
- Spray for mosquitoes and check for ticks.
- Be courteous and cautious on the trails.
- Let the slowest hiker in your party set the pace and take breaks often.
- Keep track of the time and distance.
- Be aware of wildlife in the area.



TOP 15 TRAILS

Many Indiana Dunes hiking trails offer cycling and cross-country skiing, as well as horseback riding. Visit trail websites for more information.

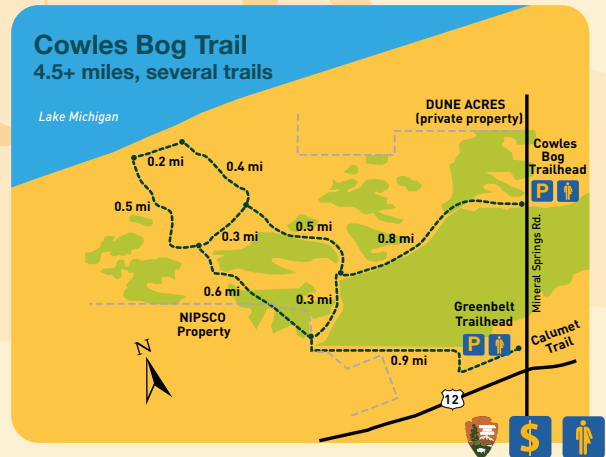


A five-mile trail system provides the chance for a fast hike, leisurely walk, or even some great cross-country skiing in the winter. A total of 157-acres showcase a stunning mixture of nature and architecture.

2401 Village Point, Chesterton

219-926-1842

coffeecreekwv.org



Embark on the 4.5 miles of interconnected trails at Cowles Bog. You can choose a short, moderate hike through wetlands, a longer hike into the forested dunes, or a challenging excursion all the way down to the shoreline.

1450 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Deep River County Park offers a mix of history, natural beauty, and pure fun within its 1,200-acre site. Park visitors can explore Wood's Grist Mill and the neighboring Deep River Visitor Center, housed in a 1904 church. Trails lead from here to lovely natural areas throughout the park.

9410 Old Lincoln Hwy., Hobart

219-769-7275

lakecountyparks.com

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest

3+ miles, several trails.



Situated atop the Valparaiso moraine, Gabis offers more than 300 acres of woody plant collections, formal gardens, wetlands, woodlands, and prairies. Originally named Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, its founders envisioned Gabis as a place where people could come to be refreshed and restored, find inspiration and creativity in nature, and learn about horticulture and ecology.

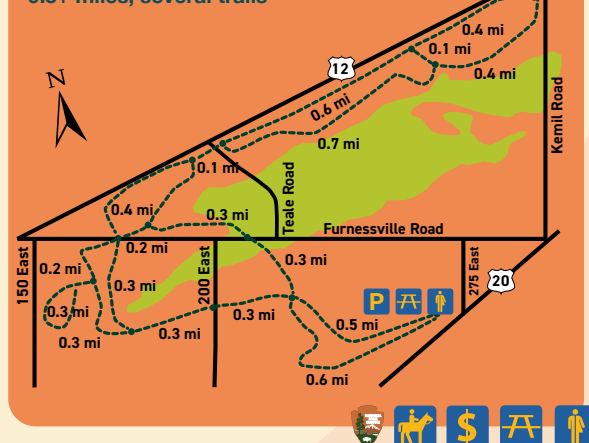
450 W. 100 North, Valparaiso

219-462-0025

pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum

Glenwood Dunes Trail

9.5+ miles, several trails



Formerly called "Ly-co-ki-we," this trail crosses ancient beachdunes, which mark the shores of an earlier and larger version of Lake Michigan. Several cutoff trails offer shorter hike alternatives. Glenwood Dunes Trail connects to the National Park's campground by way of the Dunewood Trace Campground Trail.

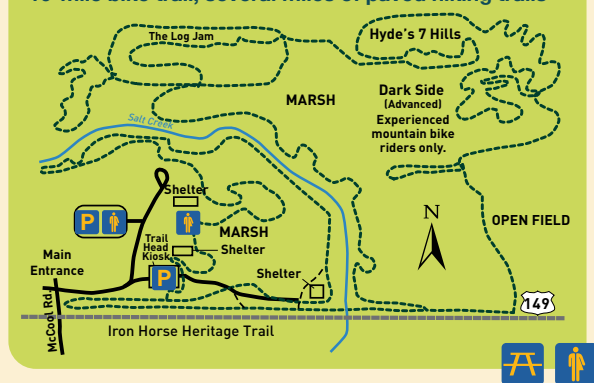
1475 N. Brummitt Rd., Chesterton

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu

Imagination Glen Park

10-mile bike trail, several miles of paved hiking trails



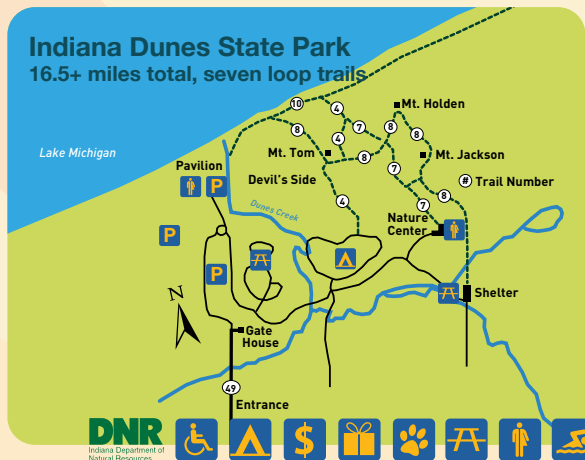
The largest park in the Portage Park system, 256-acre Imagination Glen Park is home to the 10-mile Outback Mountain Bike Trail. Woodlands cover much of the property, with Salt Creek meandering through the center. The park contains a unique and uncommon community of plant species. Salt Creek has not been channelized, so it offers natural habitat for aquatic plants and animals.

2275 McCool Rd., Portage

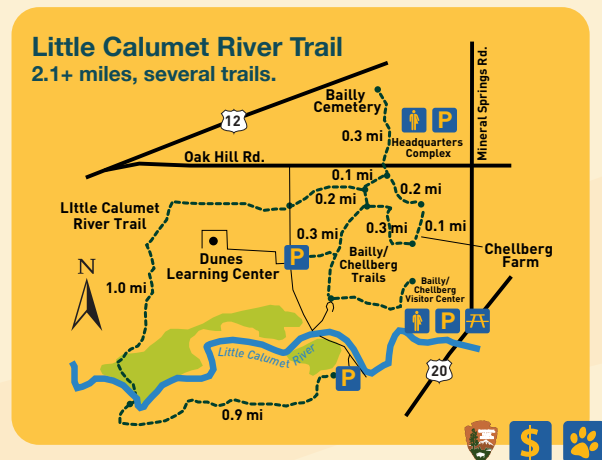
219-762-1675

inportageparks.com

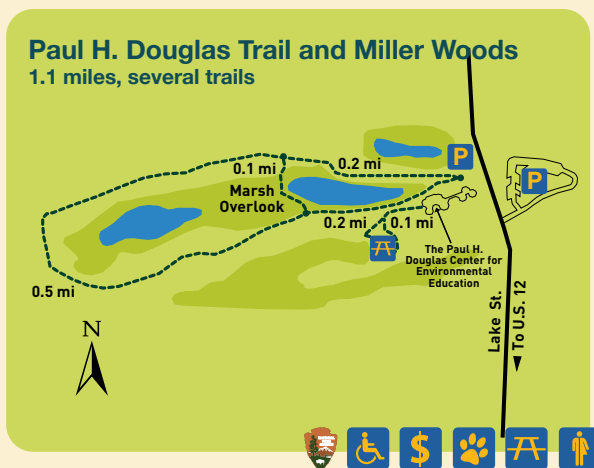




The park's 16.5 miles of trails allow you to explore multiple habitats. And of course the beaches themselves offer great walking and wildlife viewing. Scan the open water for ships, look for treasures in the sand at your feet, watch birds on the open water or feeding at the water's edge, and take in the sweeping backdrop of the dunes.
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
219-926-1952
in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm



The Little Calumet River Trail, located in the Indiana Dunes National Park, is part of a 3.9-mile network of hiking trails that connect the Baily Homestead, Chellberg Farm, and the Dunes Learning Center. The trail passes through 120 acres of restored tallgrass prairie—a once-widespread habitat, now rare in Indiana—then skirts the Little Calumet River valley and crosses the river. Follow a boardwalk through wet bottomlands before climbing to a hardwood forest and pine plantation.
401 Howe Rd., Porter
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu

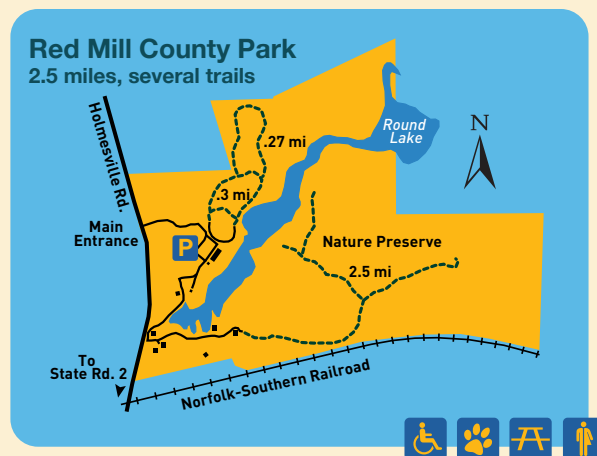


Black oaks dominate savanna woodlands that are home to 287 recorded species of plants and animals. Ecologist Henry Cowles spent much time studying the Miller Woods area. Hike or ski the 1.1-mile loop trail, which leads past an overlook of a marsh that teems with wildlife, including rare blue-spotted salamanders and western chorus frogs.

100 N. Lake St., Gary

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Part of the LaPorte County Parks system, this park encompasses 160 acres of forests, meadows, wetlands, and open water, including the headwaters of the Little Calumet River. The park also includes a 108-acre nature preserve with 2.5 miles of hiking trails that traverse the preserve's varied habitats. In spring, watch for spotted coralroot, a delicate orchid that grows in the oak woodlands here.

0185 S. Holmesville Rd., LaPorte

219-325-8315

laportecountyparks.org

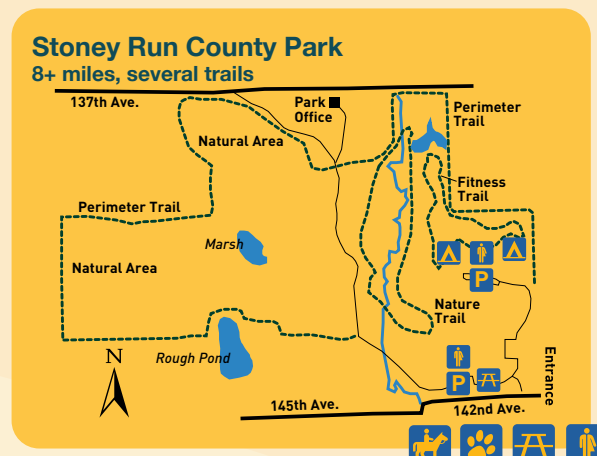


Nestled on 122 acres of rolling woodlands on Valparaiso's northwest side, this park offers picnic pavilions, sledding hill, a disc golf course, and a skateboard park. Lakewood Link, a two-mile foot/bike trail connects Rogers-Lakewood Park to Foundation Meadows. The rolling terrain and size of this park make it a great destination for nature enthusiasts. Two lakes offer fishing, boating (paddle and rowboat rentals available), and wildlife viewing. The park has many mature trees, from park-like stands with mowed grass to natural oak forest. Native wildflower plantings offer enjoyment to visitors and hungry birds. There is an entrance fee.

5320 N. Meridian Rd., Valparaiso

219-462-5144

valpoparks.org



Stoney Run County Park encompasses 316 acres of oak-hickory woodlands, ponds, ravines, and open meadows. Visitors can picnic by the water and hike or ski on eight miles of trails. A trail around the park's perimeter is open to horseback riding. The park's Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors U.S. citizens who fought in the Vietnam War and pays tribute to the 261 Lake County servicemen who died during that conflict.

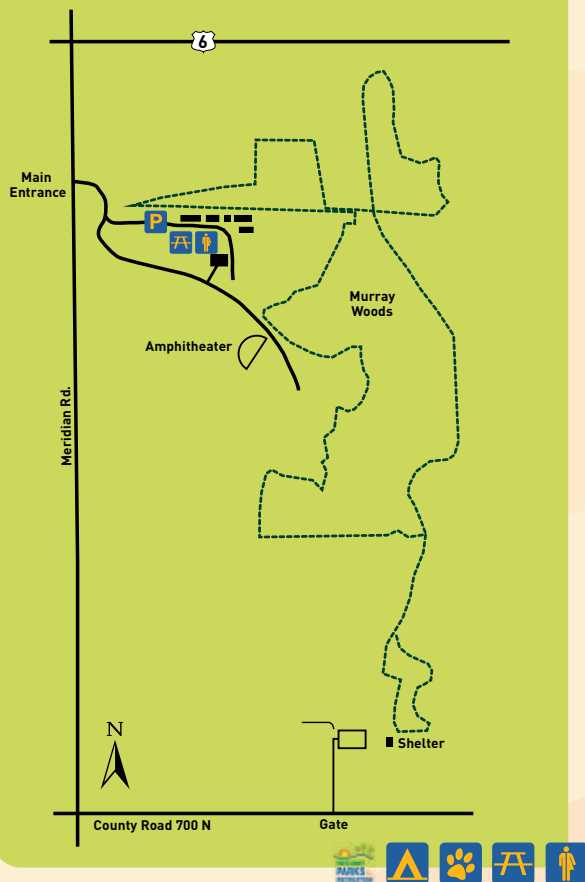
9230 E. 142nd Ave., Hebron

219-769-7275

lakecountyparks.com

Sunset Hill Farm County Park

10+ miles, several trails



Sunset Hill Farm County Park is a lovely 235-acre park with a primitive campground, several miles of trails, picnic and play areas, and an amphitheater. The park's hiking trails traverse both prairie and woodland, where you can see birds and other wildlife. A working dairy farm until 1978, the park still grows demonstration crops as part of its educational mission to cultivate respect and understanding for the earth's natural resources.

775 Meridian Rd., Valparaiso

219-465-3586

portercountyparks.org

Tolleston Dunes Trail

2.6+ miles, several trails



This scenic trail leads up and down the high ridges of the Tolleston Dunes, formed about 10,000 years ago when Lake Michigan was 25 feet higher than it is today. In just 2.6 miles, this trail in the Indiana Dunes National Park traverses a number of different, beautiful, and wildlife-rich habitats, including black oak savanna, and remnants of the Great Marsh.

5800 U.S. 12, Portage

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu

Dune Succession Trail

3.6+ miles total, three loop trails



Start with the Dune Succession Trail (also known as the Diana of the Dunes Dare) at West Beach and link with two other trails in the national park system, covering a total of 3.6 miles. Climb up over 250 stairs for a moderately challenging hike with one of the best views in all the dunes area. Once you're at the top, take in expansive views of Lake Michigan and the distant Chicago skyline. As the name suggests, this trail is a great place to see ecological dune succession at work. Numbered posts along the trail are part of a self-guided interpretive trail.

376 N. County Line Rd., Gary

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu

WEST BEACH DUNE SUCCESSION TRAIL



The 3 Dune Challenge is just an hour drive from Chicago.



The 3 DUNE Challenge

GO VERTICAL

Challenge yourself, your friends, and your family to climb the three tallest sand dunes at Indiana Dunes State Park. The 1.5-mile challenge trail is the toughest in the park, with 552 vertical feet to climb. The reward: breathtaking views and the title of dune conqueror!

Hiking up the three highest sand dunes isn't easy, but The 3 Dune Challenge is fun for all ages because it's an outdoor adventure you can each do at your own pace.

The challenge can be done any day of the week at the Indiana Dunes State Park. There is an entrance fee at the park, but once inside, there are no additional costs. The self-guided hike begins at the Nature Center. Take plenty of water and if you get tired, stop for a rest or take a shortcut back to the Nature Center.

- Walk it or run it.
- Go solo or bring your pet.
- Set a personal record or race your friends.
- Stop for family photos or share a selfie on social using #3DuneChallenge.

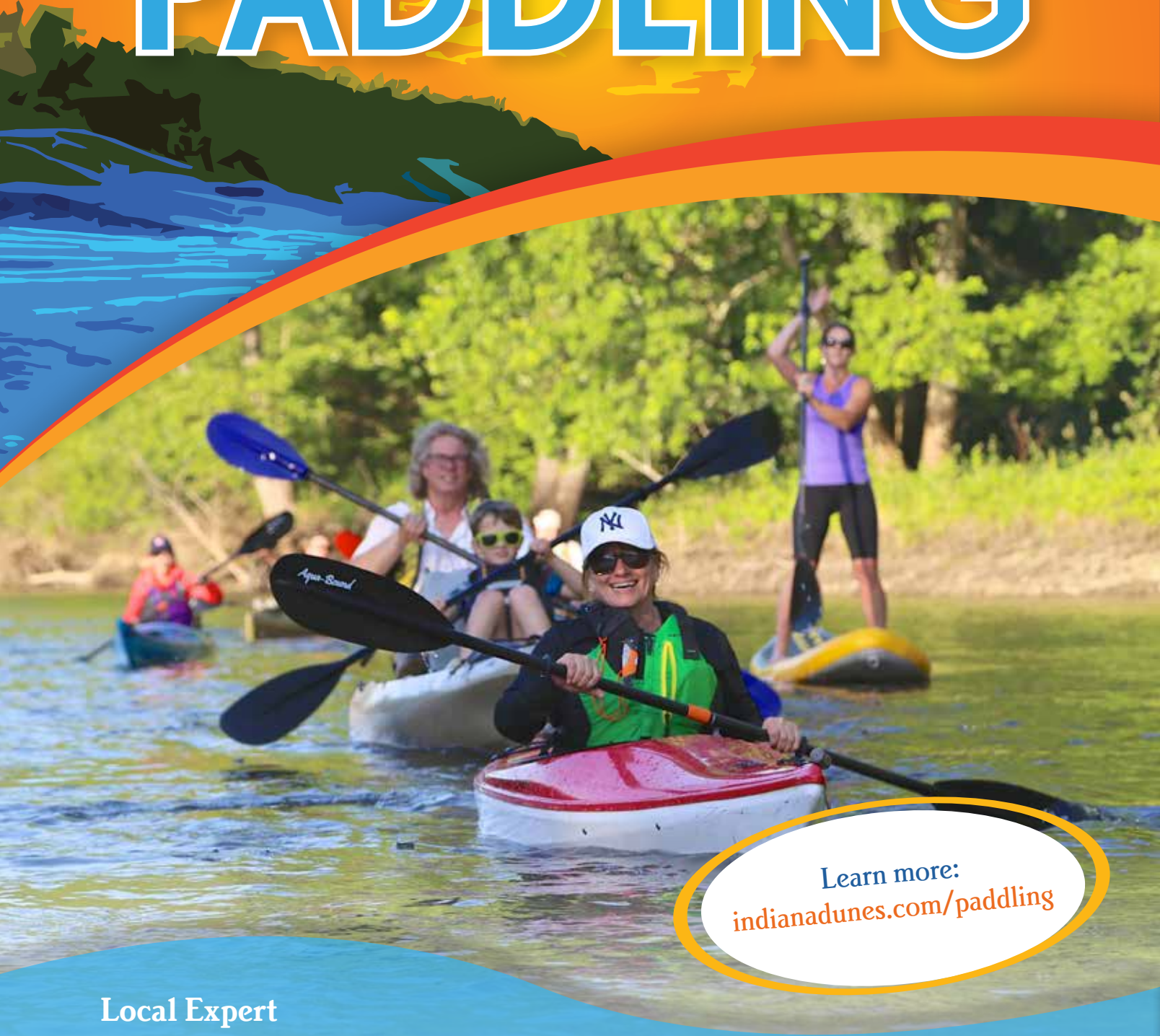
REWARD YOURSELF

After you conquer the challenge, buy a 3 Dune Challenge shirt or hoodie and pick up a free sticker from the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter, IN 46304.

You can conquer The 3 Dune Challenge any day of the week, all year round. Learn more at indianadunes.com/3dc.



PADDLING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/paddling

Local Expert

"The Dunes area is a great place to visit for many outdoor activities! Bring along your boat, and check out some of our local paddling opportunities!"

- Erik Sprenne, Local Paddling Expert



Load up your kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards—there are so many ways to paddle your way to a new Indiana Dunes adventure. Since the time of the last Ice Age, people have paddled this region's lakes and rivers. With the list of access points in this guide, you can explore the historic and ecologically rich waterways in and around the Indiana Dunes.

Paddling Safety Tips

Water Safety Tips from the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association

- Always wear a fully secured personal flotation device (PFD) while on the water.
- Assess the risk before each paddle adventure for the weather, the water, and your skill level.
- Avoid conditions and situations beyond your training and abilities.
- Use an appropriate watercraft for the water conditions.
- Dress for water temperature and immersion.
- Paddle with others as a team or a group.
- Get training on paddling skills, including self rescue skills.
- Carry appropriate safety equipment.
- Help care for the water by disposing of all waste properly and leaving the water and launch site better than you found it.



Indiana Dunes Tourism would like to express heartfelt thanks to the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (nwipa.org) and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (nirpc.org) for their contribution to the paddling information in this guide.





DEEP RIVER WATER TRAIL

PADDLING LOCATIONS

Deep River Water Trail

Running 16 miles from Lake George before emptying into Lake Michigan, Deep River's width and calm current allows for easy navigation and provides an excellent trip for paddlers of all ages and skill levels. Enjoy a very natural paddling experience surrounded by deep sections of woods, grasslands, and marshes. Deep River provides a wonderful journey along undeveloped and unspoiled shorelines and is considered by many paddlers to be the area's hidden gem.

Skill Level: Novice to intermediate

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Wide

Length: 16 miles

Need to Portage:

Occasionally necessary



Access Points:

Festival Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.535085, -87.258620

111 E. Old Ridge Rd., Hobart

219-942-2987

cityofhobart.org



Jerry Pavese Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.530672, -87.261570

500 S. Lake Park Ave., Hobart

219-942-2987

cityofhobart.com

Johnson Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.563207, -87.290893

3825 Liverpool Rd., Lake Station

219-926-7508

lakecountyparks.com

Riverview Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.567505, -87.236588

2701 Ripley St., Lake Station

219-962-7508

[Find them on Facebook](#)



Soccer and Rugby Field

GPS Coordinates:

41.536283, -87.255450

245 E. Old Ridge Rd., Hobart

219-942-2987

cityofhobart.org

Veterans Memorial Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.571200, -87.240519

5899 E. 73rd Ave., Hobart

219-924-2987

cityofhobart.org



HOWE ROAD BRIDGE

44

beachoutdooradventures.com



KEITH RICHARD WALNER NATURE PRESERVE



WYKES PLAMPIN NATURE PRESERVE

East Branch Little Calumet Water Trail

With significant stretches in both Indiana and Illinois, the Little Calumet River has helped link cities and towns throughout the Chicago region for centuries. The East Branch Little Calumet Water Trail offers paddlers over 11 miles of varying natural scenery, and two paddling trips are possible. The first takes you from Chesterton through Porter and ends at the Indiana Dunes National Park, and the second route lets paddlers put in and take out near the mouth of the river at Lake Michigan for an up-and-back trip.

Chesterton to Indiana Dunes National Park

When approaching the State Rd. 49 bridge, paddlers should stop on the left and inspect the rapids directly under the bridge before paddling through. A portage along the left shore is suggested to avoid rocks on the other side.

Skill Level: Novice to Intermediate

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Mostly narrow and shallow, but with occasional deep sections (subject to rapid rise following rains)

Length: Eight miles

Need to Portage: About 50-feet at State Rd. 49 (portage left)

Access Points:

Howe Road Bridge

GPS Coordinates:

41.622456, -87.095161

North Howe Rd., Porter

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Keith Richard Walner

Nature Preserve

GPS Coordinates:

41.622203, -87.050273

N. Calumet & Tyler St., Chesterton

219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



Wykes Plampin Nature Preserve

GPS Coordinates:

41.615375, -87.016559

North Brummitt Rd., Chesterton

219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



EAST BRANCH LITTLE CALUMET WATER TRAIL

Paddling on the Kankakee River

The Kankakee River National Water Trail provides 133 miles of paddling on a historic, undammed river flowing through several county parks.

Safety on the Kankakee River

- Be aware that there are few support services and facilities, such as washrooms, fresh water, and designated portages along the route.
- Do not attempt to paddle the river near flood stages.
- Know your location as accurately as possible, and always carry a cell phone.
- The river flows through many hunting preserves. Contact any preserves along your proposed route for information about hunting seasons.
- Tree falls and logjams can clog bridges with few portage opportunities. Call the Kankakee River Basin Commission for a status report on known logjams.

Kankakee River Basin Commission
6100 Southport Rd., Portage
219-763-0696
kankakeeriverbasin.org

Kankakee River National Water Trail

Formerly known as the Everglades of the North—before the river was dredged and straightened in the early 1900s—the Kankakee was once a vital link between French Canada and the Mississippi River. The Indiana section of the river offers easy paddling and fishing in a rural setting. This guide lists only Indiana access points, but additional information about the river and Illinois access points can be found at kankakeeriverwatertrail.org.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Deep and wide

Length: 75 miles in Indiana

Need to Portage: Rarely with average conditions

Access Points:

Dunn's Bridge County Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.220115, -86.968861

500 E. and the Kankakee River, Kouts
219-465-3586

portercountyparks.org



Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.219614, -87.273945

21690 Range Line Rd., Hebron

219-769-7275

lakecountyparks.com



Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

GPS Coordinates (Route 8 Access):

41.317480, -86.745912

GPS Coordinates (English

Lake/Yellow River Access):

41.271183, -86.825596

4320 W. Toto Rd., North Judson

574-896-3522

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Kingsbury State Fish and Wildlife Area Access

GPS Coordinates:

41.490257, -86.581599

S 600 E, Walkerton

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area

GPS Coordinates (Black Oak Bayou):

41.168360, -87.496839

GPS Coordinates (State Line):

41.167001, -87.526272

GPS Coordinates (White Oak Bayou):

41.170205, -87.458168

4752 W. 1050 North, Lake Village

219-992-3019

in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Leo Jasinski Public Access

GPS Coordinates:

41.606116, -86.414264

60995 Crumstown Hwy.,

North Liberty

574-654-3155

sjcparks.org





Paddling on Lake Michigan

The Lake Michigan Water Trail currently covers more than 75 miles along the south shore of Lake Michigan, following the entire Indiana coast from Chicago, Illinois to New Buffalo, Michigan. Paddlers, planners, and access site owners from the four states bordering the lake are working together to develop what will be the longest continuous loop of freshwater sea kayaking in the world.

Safety on Lake Michigan

- Be visible. Wear bright colors so others can see you between waves or in foggy conditions.
- Carry a bright light, a whistle, and flares to signal your position.
- Only use a sea kayak with bulkheads/ floatation in bow and stern.
- Have self rescue skills if paddling in waves or away from shore.
- Take a boating safety class offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

INDIANA DUNE STATE PARK



CENTRAL BEACH



DUNBAR BEACH





Lake Michigan Water Trail

Indiana Dunes is a premier paddling destination with more than 50 miles of a continuous water trail along Lake Michigan's southern shore. Along the trail, paddlers will experience the diverse ecosystems and land use of Northwest Indiana, including white sand beaches, towering dunes, forested bluffs, industrial hubs, bustling ports, and breathtaking sunsets over the Chicago skyline.

Skill Level: Intermediate to expert

Type: Sea kayak

Conditions: Can vary from calm to dangerous

Length: Varies

Need to Portage: N/A

Access Points:

Calumet Park

GPS Coordinates:
41.721770, -87.524616
9801 S. Ave. G, Chicago
312-747-6039
chicagoparkdistrict.com

Central Avenue Beach

GPS Coordinates:
41.704334, -86.951499
151 Central Ave., Michigan City
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Dunbar Beach

GPS Coordinates:
41.684496, -87.003555
300 W. Lake Front Dr., Michigan City
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



East Chicago Marina

GPS Coordinates:
41.655212, -87.436893
3301 Aldis St., East Chicago, IN
219-391-8482
eastchicago.com

Hammond Marina

GPS Coordinates:
41.697382, -87.510666
701 Casino Center Dr., Hammond
219-659-7678
hammondmarina.com

Indiana Dunes State Park

GPS Coordinates:
41.661905, -87.066958
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
219-926-1952
in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm



Continued on next page.

Kemil Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.682180, -87.009884

27 N. East State Park Rd., Chesterton

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Lake View Beach Access & Picnic Area

GPS Coordinates:

41.686452, -86.997026

50 W. Lake Front Dr., Beverly Shores

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Marquette Park

GPS Coordinates:

41.620344, -87.270111

860 N. Lake St., Gary

219-938-7362

marquetteparkgary.org



New Buffalo Beach & Boat Ramp

GPS Coordinates:

41.802349, -86.749112

200 Marquette Dr., New Buffalo, MI

269-469-1522

cityofnewbuffalo.org

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

GPS Coordinates:

41.631553, -87.177719

100 Riverwalk Dr., Portage

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Porter Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.65964337, -87.069363

3050 Wabash Ave., Porter

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Washington Park Beach & Zoo

GPS Coordinates:

41.727500, -86.905870

6 on the Lake, Michigan City

219-873-1506

michigancityparks.com



Wells Street Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.624363, -87.223365

9501 Lake Shore Dr., Gary

219-938-8275

wellsstbeach.com



West Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.611591, -87.2225418

376 N. County Line Rd., Gary

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.686843, -87.495928

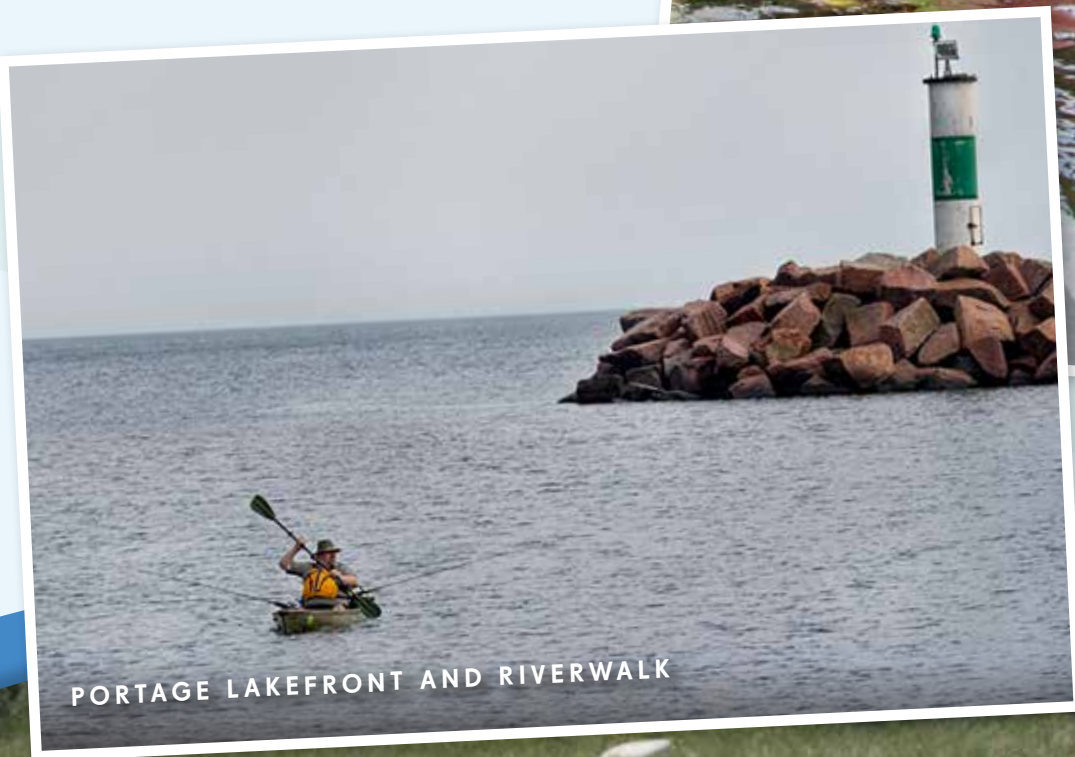
1500 Park Rd., Whiting

219-659-0860

whitingindiana.com



MARQUETTE PARK



PORTAGE LAKEFRONT AND RIVERWALK



KEMIL BEACH

Lakes of LaPorte Water Trail

Located about 20 miles south of Lake Michigan and LaPorte, Indiana is home to its own unique lake system that provides a wonderful series of inland paddles. Clustered off the Indiana Toll Road in LaPorte are Pine, Stone, Fishtrap, Horseshoe, Lily, Clear, Lower, Orr, and Crane Lake. Each one offers a different paddling adventure perfect for people of all ages and skill levels.

Skill Level: Novice

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Wide at Pine/

Stone, narrow at Lily

Length: Varies

Need to Portage: N/A

Access Points:

Pine Lake Marina

GPS Coordinates:

41.628350, -86.738698

908 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte

219-402-1120

cityoflaporte.com



Stone Lake Beach

GPS Coordinates:

41.610197, -86.747885

300 Grangemouth Dr., LaPorte

219-326-9600

cityoflaporte.com



Long Lake and Chain of Lakes

There's easy paddling on Long Lake with access to the Canada Lake. The calm waters surrounded by lakeside homes and wildlife make for a relaxing experience.

Skill Level: Novice

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Calm lake

Length: Varies

Need to Portage: N/A

Access Point:

Long Lake Public Access

GPS Coordinates:

41.524514, -87.051317

E. 600 North Rd., Valparaiso

219-879-5710

fishing.in.gov

Portage Lakefront

Under normal flow conditions, this section can be paddled upstream and back without much difficulty. When paddling upstream from either access point, take the first left turn into the East Branch of the Little Calumet (the right branch is the West Branch of the Little Calumet), and paddle upstream as far as you care. The multiple branches you will reach (from right to left) are Salt Creek, the Little Calumet, and a cooling water discharge from the Cleveland Cliffs steel plant. You will run into logjams on both Salt Creek and the East Branch Little Calumet and can portage around those if feeling adventurous. When done exploring, turn around and head back to your starting point.

Skill Level: Novice to Intermediate

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Deep and wide

Length: 3.5 miles

Need to Portage: N/A

Access Points:

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

GPS Coordinates:

41.6267544, -87.1772119

100 Riverwalk Dr., Portage

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Portage Public Marina

(Sammie L. Maletta Public Marina)

GPS Coordinates:

41.631519, -87.177822

1200 Marina Way, Portage

219-763-6833

portagein.gov



Rogers Lakewood Park

Loomis Lake and Spectacles Lake are small and calm, which is perfect for a beginning blueways explorer. They also make for relaxing trips for experts.

5320 N. Meridian Rd., Valparaiso

219-462-5144

valpoparks.org

Skill Level: Novice

Type: Canoe or kayak

Conditions: Calm lake

Length: Varies

Need to Portage: N/A

Access Points:

Campbell Street Access

GPS Coordinates:

41.517772, -87.062378

5502 Campbell St., Valparaiso

219-462-5144



LAKE OF LAPORTE
WATER TRAIL



LONG LAKE AND
CHAIN OF LAKES



PORTAGE LAKEFRONT



WANDERING



Learn more:
indianadunes.com/wandering

Local Expert

"Nature walks are one of our favorite things to do, and the feeling of being alone in this big world is such a treasure."

- Natasha Nicholes, Local Wandering Expert



Why hurry? Take the time to wander and let your senses take in the sights, sounds, and smells of the Indiana Dunes. Listen to the waves on the shore. Feel the gentle breeze on your cheeks. Watch the sunlight dancing through the leaves in the forest. The Indiana Dunes area offers plenty of places where you can leisurely stroll, explore, or simply sit and relax in nature.

Visitor Information

Start Your Adventure at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

- Access to Dunes-Kankakee Trail, which goes to the Indiana Dunes State Park
- Art walk with photo opportunities
- Electric vehicle charging station
- Exhibit hall that's fun for kids
- Gift shop
- Guides and brochures
- Helpful advice from our destination ambassadors
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, and a water bottle filling station
- Short film in our theater

Find Us

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Just north of the Indiana Toll Road and Interstate 94 and just south of the Indiana Dunes State Park and U.S. 20.

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter

Destination Ambassadors: 219-926-2255

National Park: 219-395-1882

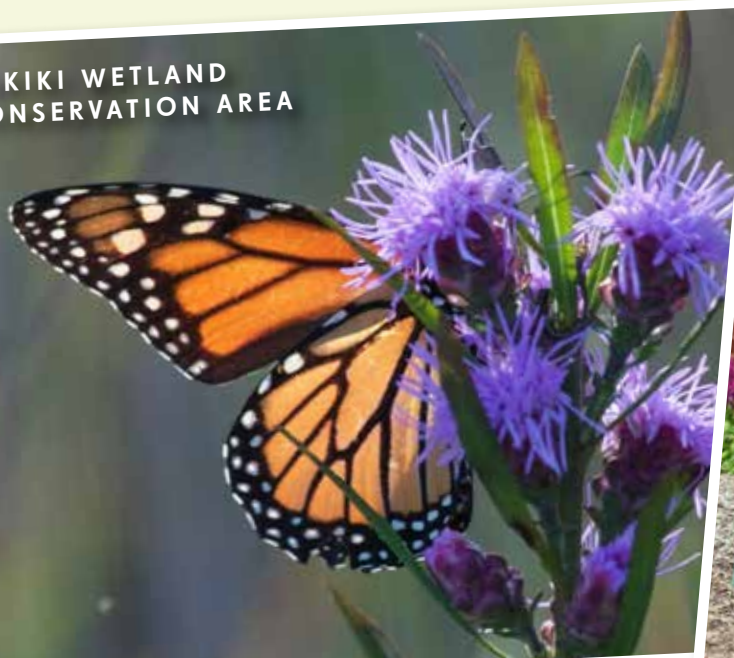
indianadunes.com

info@indianadunes.com

In-season: 8am–6pm daily, Memorial Day to Labor Day

Off-season: 8:30am–4:30pm daily, Labor Day to Memorial Day

AUKIKI WETLAND CONSERVATION AREA





WANDERING LOCATIONS

Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve

Search these large woods for small things. More than 40 rare Indiana plants are contained within the dense trees—salamanders hide under logs, migratory birds pass through the trees, and frogs chorus in the spring evenings. More than five miles of trails make this hike a game of I-Spy on your adventure through the thick forest. 8364 Meer Rd., Michigan City 219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area

This 650-acre parcel conserves a mix of wetlands, black oak barrens, and sand prairie, offering wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting. Aukiki is part of the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project. The Grand Kankakee Marsh was one of the largest freshwater wetland complexes in the United States, encompassing 500,000 acres in eight counties. State Rd. 49, Wheatfield

219-285-2184

[Find them on Facebook](#)



Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm

These two historic sites sit nearly side-by-side within the Indiana Dunes National Park. Honore Gratien Joseph Bailly de Messein, the first known non-native resident of northwest Indiana, set up a fur trading post here in 1822. As you traverse this easy-going 1.5-mile section of trail, imagine traders and travelers who once used the Little Calumet River as a critical transportation route. 618 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter 219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Barker Woods

Barker Woods, a Shirley Heinze Land Trust property, is a rare example of an old-growth forest nestled in an urban area. The 30-acre nature preserve holds a diverse array of shrubs, and herbs dot the grounds as oak, pine, and maple trees tower overhead.

444 Barker Rd., Michigan City 219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



Brincka Cross Gardens

Brincka Cross is a small haven set back in the woods, just waiting to be explored. William Brincka, professor at the Art Institute of Chicago, put his artistry to work over decades designing the nearly four acres of gardens on this 25-acre site. Each plant was carefully chosen to create a sense of delight and wonder. Schedule a tour for more exploration of the home and to see why experts and enthusiasts from across the country come to marvel at the gardens. 427 E. Furness Rd., Michigan City 219-465-3586

portercountyparks.org



Broken Wagon Bison

Get up close and personal with our country's largest native land mammal at this family-owned bison farm. Take a wagon tour to see a herd of more than 100 bison, including Big John, the largest bison in the group. Afterward, purchase a variety of bison meat products and gifts. Scheduled one-hour tours are offered on Saturdays from June to September. Call or see website for tour times. A tour fee applies.

563 W. 450 North, Hobart 219-759-3523

brokenwagonbison.com



BROKEN WAGON BISON



BRINCKA CROSS GARDENS


Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve

See one of the rarest ecosystems in the state at the 41-acre Cressmoor Preserve. The black-soil prairie contains at least 10 plants and five insects that are state-listed threatened species. Although the trail is a short 0.75 mile, the late summer wildflowers are impressive—as are the butterflies they attract! Catch the trail that leaves from the parking lot to witness the diversity of plant species here. 483 N. Lake Park Ave., Hobart 219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org


Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve

Engquist Preserve was a key element in efforts to preserve land in the Little Calumet River Conservation Corridor. Located adjacent to the Heron Rookery unit of Indiana Dunes National Park and Reynold's Creek State Game Bird Habitat, it creates an area of nearly 2,000 contiguous acres of protected land, a boon to the many common mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians which live here.

E. 1300 North, Chesterton

219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org





Drazer Park (Thomas S. Drazer Memorial Park)

Drazer Park is a memorial to the men and women in the Kouts area who have given the supreme sacrifice for God and their country. The park provides a shelter, tennis courts, basketball courts, a large playground, and a lighted community ball field. It is host to many events such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat. The park has new playground equipment. 909 W. Daumer Rd., Kouts 219-766-3312 koutsindiana.org

Forest Park

Though Forest Park is just ten acres in size, it is a lovely spot for a stroll or for a family picnic. Oak and hickory trees dominate the woodlands here. You can wander along trails through a restored two-acre oak savanna remnant. The native woodland wildflowers and shrubs that have been planted provide a place to enjoy a native habitat inside the city. A small prairie plant demonstration plot hosts families of bluebirds in the summer. You will also find picnic pavilions, restrooms, and a playground here. Ogden Gardens Park is adjacent to the east. 564 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso 219-462-5144 valpoparks.org



Friendship Botanic Gardens

Tucked in the valley of Trail Creek is truly a secret garden. It's an intriguing and unexpected blend of formal gardens, statues from days gone by, and serene natural areas. Visit Lake Lucerne to see muskrats, geese, turtles, and waterfowl, or explore the Path of Nations' international-themed cultivated gardens. Guests with limited mobility may experience the grounds via golf cart tours scheduled in advance. 2055 E. U.S. 12, Michigan City 219-878-9885 friendshipgardens.org



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

Thousands of years ago, glaciers receded and left Lake Michigan and a series of dunes and swales lying parallel to today's lakeshore. The 131-acre Gibson Woods Nature Preserve protects a sizeable remnant of this landscape, with 3.5 miles of trails through the preserve's dominant habitat—black oak savanna. The Gibson Woods Environmental Awareness Center houses natural history exhibits and live reptiles and amphibians. 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond 219-844-3188 lakecountyparks.com



Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve

See the diverse natural communities that make Northwest Indiana so special. You'll find open sandy dunes, oak savanna, a variety of wetland habitats, and tallgrass prairie. Spring brings wildflowers to the woodlands, frog calls to the wetlands, and colorful spikes of wildflowers and wavy tall grasses in mid-summer. 200 N. Liverpool Rd., Hobart 219-242-8558 heinzetrust.org



Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary

A truly unexpected find. A small, 600-meter tract nestled in the middle of an industrial area may not seem worth exploring, but this one is! As you crisscross the site on a narrow footpath, keep your eyes open for neotropical bird species that use this small space as a critical stopover during migrations. A rough trail runs the length of the site, allowing you to scan the woods and grassy areas for birds. 701 Casino Center Dr., Hammond 219-659-7678 indianaaudubon.org

Heron Rookery Trail and Reynold's Creek

For more than 60 years, herons nested here along the Little Calumet River. Though the heron rookery is no longer active, the 1.6-mile trail is a good spot for viewing other bird species. In springtime, the woods along the trail are carpeted with wildflowers, including trillium, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, and mayapple.
1320 N. 600 East, Michigan City
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Kankakee Sands Efroymsen Family Prairie Restoration

More than 7,800 acres provide refuge for some of the fastest declining bird species in America. Watch out for the glass lizard, a legless reptile resembling a snake. Wildflowers will overwhelm your senses as you hike through black oak savanna to the once-booming town of Conrad. With the recent addition of bison on the site, your journey to Kankakee Sands is sure to be memorable.
3294 N. U.S. 41, Morocco
219-285-2184

nature.org/kankakeesands



Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve

This untouched floodplain forest along the Little Calumet River offers a tranquil setting where wetland-loving creatures and plants thrive. Woodland wildflowers cover the slopes of the ravines in spring, and migratory birds rest here on their long journeys in the spring and fall. The trail includes a 0.5-mile of frontage along the river and a launch site for paddlers.
N. Calumet Rd. and Taylor St., Chesterton
219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



KANKAKEE SANDS EFROYMSON FAMILY PRAIRIE RESTORATION





OGDEN GARDENS PARK

Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve

This 154-acre property offers numerous recreational opportunities, including five miles of marked trails that are open every day. This Moraine Region site features woods, wetlands, streams, and prairie pockets. It provides habitat for wildlife, including migrating birds and bats. Once the site of a Girl Scout camp, an outdoor amphitheater and lodge provide activity venues.

109 W. 700 North, Valparaiso
219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



Mount Baldy & Beach Access

The largest "living dune" in the National Park, Mount Baldy is currently moving about four feet every year. As the dune moves, it buries everything in its path, including trees. Scientists continue to study this important area of the ever-changing lakeshore. Call the Visitor Center for information on guided tours because all hikes to the summit must be led by authorized Indiana Dunes National Park rangers.

101 Rice St. (U.S. 12), Michigan City
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Ogden Gardens Park

Ogden Gardens Park is four acres of professionally maintained botanical gardens with perennial gardens, annual displays, native and ornamental trees, a gazebo, and a Japanese garden. The Japanese garden includes a Teahouse, shaded trails, bridges, and streams, as well as a 22,000-gallon koi pond. Hummingbirds and butterflies frequent the gardens in summer, and many songbirds are drawn here as well.

451 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso
219-462-5144

valpoparks.org



Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Formerly an industrial site, this 57-acre area features an enclosed pavilion with seasonal food services and restrooms, as well as a handicap-accessible trail, fishing pier, and kayak launch. A breakwater also provides easy access for fishing, bird watching, and sightseeing.

6150 U.S. 12 (100 Riverwalk Dr.),

Portage

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail

This true bog is a must-see adventure experience. Located several miles inland, away from the rest of the Indiana Dunes National Park, Pinhook Bog has a floating boardwalk where you can view carnivorous plants, sphagnum moss, and blueberry bushes. You'll walk above the sponge-like layer on the bog's surface in the most unexpected environment in the dunes. The bog is open during select times when rangers are present. The Upland Trail is accessed through the same parking lot, but it is open year-round.

946 N. Wozniak Rd., LaPorte

219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Seidner Dune and Swale

This 43-acre property protects globally rare dune-and-swale topography and floodplain marsh along the Grand Calumet River. Impressive wildflower displays include wild lupine and puccoon in the spring and fringed gentians and prairie plants in the fall. Egrets, herons, and cormorants are often sighted along the river during the summer. An informal hiking trail exists along the frontage road and former railway right of way.

5501-5599 Kennedy Ave., Hammond

219-242-8558

heinztrust.org



Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Restored as a shorebird sanctuary, this former garbage dump is suitable for a swath of migrating birds to rest, feed, and prepare for their continued journeys. Some areas within the sanctuary will be specifically constructed for migratory shorebirds, with managed pond levels, appropriate food sources, and habitat. Elevated walkways for bird enthusiasts are being built. The sanctuary will also allow for permanent wildlife residents and flora native to this region as well as amenities for their human friends.

1050 S. 11th St., Chesterton

219-477-8247

westchesterbird.org



Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach

Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach Park are adjacent properties. Combined, these 38 acres offer sporting areas including a bike trail, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and a baseball diamond. The park is also a landing place for migrating birds. There's a fishing pier, another relaxing fishing pond and a boat launch ramp at the beach. In summer months, the beach has lifeguards.

1500 Park Rd., Whiting

219-659-0860

whitingindiana.com



Zona Wildlife Sanctuary

This sanctuary's looping trails are an easy walk or run, especially for families with little ones. Picnic tables and interpretive signage are located along the trails. The sanctuary welcomes dog walking.

601 E. 950 North, Westville

219-246-2402

zona-wildlife.edan.io



ZONA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

PINHOOK BOG & UPLAND TRAIL



PLACES TO STAY























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Duneland Communities

	Price range: \$—Less than \$50, \$\$—\$50–\$100, \$\$\$—\$100+	# Rooms/campsites	Indoor/outdoor pool (I/P/O/P)	Full/continental breakfast (FB/CB)	High-speed internet (Y)	Nonsmoking (N)
AL & SALLY'S MOTEL INC. 3221 W. Dunes Hwy., Michigan City (Pines) 219-872-9131 alsallysmotel.com	\$\$	16	OP		Y	N
AT HOME IN THE WOODS BED AND BREAKFAST  898 N. County Rd. 350 East, Chesterton 219-728-1325 athomeinthewoodsbb.com	\$\$\$	4	OP	FB	Y	N
BEST WESTERN INDIAN OAK   558 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton 219-926-2200 indianoak.com	\$\$	62	IP	FB	Y	N
COMFORT INN & SUITES - PORTER  1800 W. U.S. 20, Porter 219-250-2181 choicehotels.com	\$\$	70	IP	FB	Y	N
DUNES VACATION RENTAL 4942 W. Dunes Hwy., Beverly Shores 773-704-8557 airbnb.com	\$\$\$	1			Y	N
DUNESWALK INN AT THE FURNESS MANSION  1491 N. Furnleigh Ln., Chesterton 219-728-6393 duneswalkinn.com	\$\$\$	5			Y	N
DUNEWOOD CAMPGROUND    645 Broadway, Beverly Shores 219-395-1882 recreation.gov	\$	67				
FAIRBRIDGE INN EXPRESS   713 Plaza Dr., Chesterton 219-929-4416 choicehotels.com	\$\$	41		CB	Y	N
HILTON GARDEN INN CHESTERTON  501 Gateway Blvd., Chesterton 219-983-9500 chesterton.hgi.com	\$\$\$	120	IP		Y	N
INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK CAMPGROUND    1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton 866-622-6746 in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm	\$	140				
QUALITY INN - CHESTERTON  418 Council Dr., Chesterton 219-929-5549 qualityinn.com	\$\$	47		CB	Y	N
RILEY'S RAILHOUSE BED & BREAKFAST   123 N. 4th St., Chesterton 219-395-9999 rileysrailhouse.com	\$\$\$	5		FB	Y	N
SAND CREEK CAMPGROUND   1000 N. 350 East, Chesterton 219-926-7482 or 219-331-9805 sandcreekcampground.org	\$	150	OP		Y	N
SPRING HOUSE INN   303 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter 219-929-4600 springhouseinn.com	\$\$	50	IP	CB	Y	N
WATERBIRD LAKESIDE INN  556 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton 219-928-1501 waterbirdinn.com	\$\$	40			Y	N













Key

- Bed & Breakfasts
- Hotels & Inns
- RVS & Campgrounds
- Vacation Homes
- ROSE Award Winners

Portage

	Price range: \$—Less than \$50, \$\$—\$50–\$100, \$\$\$—\$100+	# Rooms/campsites	Indoor/outdoor pool (IP/OP)	Full/continental breakfast (FB/CB)	High-speed internet (Y)	Nonsmoking (N)
AFFORDABLE SUITES OF AMERICA PORTAGE  1550 Olmstead Dr. 219-734-6111 affordablesuites.com	\$\$	49			Y	
BAYMONT BY WYNDHAM PORTAGE   2323 Willowcreek Rd. 219-706-3058 wyndhamhotels.com	\$\$	76	IP	CB	Y	N
BEST WESTERN PLUS PORTAGE HOTEL & SUITES  6200 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-734-6727 bestwestern.com	\$\$	100	IP	CB	Y	N
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON - PORTAGE   1630 Olmstead Dr. 219-764-0021 radissonhotels.com	\$\$\$	100	IP	CB	Y	N
DAYS INN BY WYNDHAM PORTAGE  6161 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-762-2136 wyndhamhotels.com	\$\$	111	IP		Y	
HAMPTON INN PORTAGE  6353 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-764-1919 hilton.com	\$\$\$	60	IP	CB	Y	N
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES PORTAGE  6295 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-734-6000 ihg.com	\$\$\$	86	IP	CB	Y	N
LAKESHORE CAMP RESORT    5300 Old Porter Rd. 219-762-7757 lakeshorecampresort.com	\$	125	OP			
PORTAGE INN  6142 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-763-6601 choicehotels.com	\$	50				
QUALITY INN & SUITES - PORTAGE   2300 Willowcreek Rd. 219-763-7177 choicehotels.com	\$\$	52		CB	Y	N
SUPER 8 BY WYNDHAM PORTAGE   6118 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-762-8857 wyndhamhotels.com	\$\$	65		CB	Y	N
TRAVEL INN   6101 Melton Rd. (U.S. 20) 219-254-2934 or 219-841-9928 travelinnportage.com	\$\$	131		FB	Y	N
WOODLAND VILLAGE RV LOTS AND MOBILE HOME PARK  5757 U.S. 20 219-762-6578 wvnhp.com	\$	70				

Valparaiso

	Price range: \$—Less than \$50, \$\$—\$50–\$100, \$\$\$—\$100+	# Rooms/campsites	Indoor/outdoor pool (IP/OP)	Full/continental breakfast (FB/CB)	High-speed internet (Y)	Nonsmoking (N)
THE ABERDEEN INN & THE ABBEY   3158 S. State Rd. 2 219-465-3753 innataberdeen.com	\$\$\$	10	OP	FB	Y	N
BEST WESTERN UNIVERSITY INN AT VALPARAISO  760 W. Morthland Dr. (U.S. 30) 219-850-1100 bestwestern.com	\$\$	53		FB	Y	N
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON - VALPARAISO  2020 LaPorte Ave. 219-476-0000 radissonhotelsamericas.com	\$\$\$	59	IP	CB	Y	N
FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT - VALPARAISO   2101 E. Morthland Dr. (U.S. 30) 219-465-6225 marriott.com	\$\$\$	63	IP	CB	Y	N
HAMPTON INN & SUITES VALPARAISO  1451 S. Silhavy Rd. 219-531-6424 hilton.com	\$\$\$	77	IP	FB	Y	N
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES VALPARAISO  1251 Silhavy Rd. S. 219-464-9395 or 888-897-0084 ihg.com	\$\$\$	85	IP	FB	Y	N
PIKK'S TAVERN & INN 62 W. Lincolnway 219-476-7455 pikkstavern.com	\$\$\$	2			Y	N
SONGBIRD PRAIRIE BED AND BREAKFAST INN AND SPA 174 N. County Rd. 600 West 219-759-4274 or 219-743-2096 songbirdprairie.com	\$\$\$	5		FB	Y	N
SUNSET HILL FARM COUNTY PARK CAMPGROUND   35 E. 700 North 219-465-3586 portercountyparks.org	\$	6				
SUPER 8 BY WYNDHAM VALPARAISO  3005 John Howell Dr. 219-386-3029 wyndhamhotels.com	\$\$	58	IP	CB	Y	N
VALPARAISO INN BED & BREAKFAST  301 Washington St. 219-242-8934 valpoinn.com	\$\$\$	5		FB	Y	N

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Indiana Dunes TOURISM



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Indiana Dunes Tourism is the official destination marketing organization for the Indiana Dunes area/Porter County, IN.