



Indiana
Dunes
TOURISM

IndianaDunes.com

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



BIKE · BIRD · FISH · HIKE · PADDLE · WANDER



IN INDIANA

Official Guide for Porter County

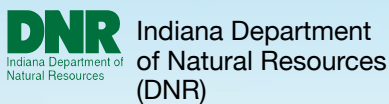


INDIANA DUNES OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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.



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 even more
#IndianaDunes outdoor
adventures on social media!

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

INDIANA DUNES VISITOR CENTER

Start your adventure at the Visitor Center

- Helpful advice from our Destination Ambassadors
- Guides and brochures
- A short National Park film in our theater
- An exhibit hall that's fun for kids
- A gift shop and National Park passes
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, and a water bottle filling station
- RV Parking
- An electric vehicle charging station
- The Dunes-Kankakee Trail, which goes to the Indiana Dunes State Park and the Calumet Trail
- Picnic tables and an art walk with photo opportunities
- Five foreign language guides
- Bike rentals
- Indigenous Cultural Trail

Find Us At:

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter (just north of the Indiana Toll Road and Interstate 94 and just south of the Indiana Dunes State Park and U.S. 20).
219-926-2255 or 800-283-8687
indianadunes.com
info@indianadunes.com
8am–6pm daily, Memorial Day to Labor Day; 8:30am–4:30pm daily, Labor Day to Memorial Day

Don't Forget!
We're on Central Time (CT)

Meet a Destination Ambassador

When you start your trip at the Visitor Center, you can chat with one of our Destination Ambassadors. They're true experts in what the Indiana Dunes area has to offer. From activities and attractions to dining and shopping, they'll help you plan your next adventure.



"A lifelong resident of Duneland, I discover something worthy of making a memory each day. Stop in and let us help you make your own special memories!"
— Elizabeth



"I love helping guests plan their adventure and showing them what we have to offer! It's even more rewarding when they come back and tell me what a wonderful time they had!"
— Taylor



"It's my pleasure to introduce our guests to the natural beauty of the Indiana Dunes. We're more than sand and water; we're a wonderful respite of exploration and biodiversity."
— Drew



PEDAL POWER RENTALS

INDIANA DUNES MERCHANDISE

Commemorate your dunes vacation. Visit us online at IndianaDunes.com/Shop or stop by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.





FREE postcards

Present this coupon for a set of Indiana Dunes postcards. While supplies last. Limit one set of postcards per family.

Translated Travel Planners

The Indiana Dunes Visitor Center offers five translated Travel Planners, so no matter where you're from, you can get straight to exploring the dunes.

Five languages!



ART WALK

Stroll the grounds of the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and see five murals, each one created in a matter of hours by the muralist Ryan "ARCY" Christenson, as well as our life-sized "Bison-tenial" bison and painted bench. The seven pieces of art all depict wildlife native to the Indiana Dunes area. **Can you find the hidden Mickey ears hidden in the five murals?**

TWO PARKS ONE DESTINATION

EXPLORE THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

Indiana Dunes is made up of both a National Park and a State Park, and each park has its own fee.

On March 31, 2022, the National Park Service implemented an entrance fee for the Indiana Dunes National Park. National Park passes can be purchased at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Paul H. Douglas Center, West Beach gatehouse (seasonally), and online ([recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)).

Separate passes are needed for the Indiana Dunes State Park and can be purchased at the Indiana Dunes State Park gatehouse. For discounts and special passes, check online.



INDIANA DUNES ENTRANCE FEES

PASSES	 NATIONAL PARK	DNR STATE PARK
Annual Passes	\$45: Indiana Dunes National Park annual pass (only useable at Indiana Dunes National Park sites)	\$50: in-state annual pass (useable at all Indiana State Park sites)
	\$80: America the Beautiful National Parks pass (covers entrance fees for all Federal Lands in the U.S.)	\$70: non-resident annual pass (useable at all Indiana State Park sites)
Daily/Weekly Passes	\$15: seven-day pass per person for walk-ins, bike-ins, and boat-ins (maximum \$25 per family group)	\$7: in-state daily vehicle/family pass
	\$25: seven-day carload/family pass	\$12: out-of-state daily vehicle/family pass
	\$20: seven-day motorcycle pass	\$2: walk-in or bike-in fee
Special Passes	Discount passes: Visit store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes	Discount passes: Visit in.gov/dnr
	Up to \$100: commercial fee for motor coach	



DNR

BOTH PARKS AT A GLANCE

INFORMATION	 NATIONAL PARK	DNR STATE PARK
Locations	Over 25 distinct locations, 15,000 acres, and 15 miles of the southern Lake Michigan shoreline.	2,182 acres of contiguous state designated nature preserves and natural landmarks.
Concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Beach Snack Bar & Gift Shop (seasonal) • Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion Snack Bar (seasonal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food service and gift shop available at beach pavilion • Supplies, food, and gifts available at camp store
Bathhouse / Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Beach Bathhouse: seasonal restrooms, potable water, indoor showers, and lockers • Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion: 3,500 square foot, includes restrooms, seasonal snack bar, and a classroom/meeting space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior showers and changing rooms, restrooms, changing stations, and sinks available at beach comfort station • Restroom, food service, and gifts available in pavilion
Beach Parking	Approximately 1,200 spaces spread over eight beach access sites.	Two beach parking lots with approximately 2,000 spaces. Separate picnic area parking is available throughout park. Parking is also available at the Nature Center, North Orchard, and Wilson Shelter lots.
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunewood Campground • Dunbar Group Site • Central Avenue Walk-in Sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Dunes State Park Campground
Trails	Fourteen distinctly named trail systems with more than 50 miles of diverse habitats.	A network of seven numbered trails through the State Park covering more than 16 miles.
Picnic Areas	Twelve differently located picnic areas—six are sheltered, and two are sheltered and reservable. To reserve a picnic table, visit nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/picnic.htm	Beach picnic tables available during the season at the west lot. 15 acre picnic area with playground by Auxiliary Lot. Six reservable shelters, plus additional picnic tables and grilling areas spread throughout the park—seven sheltered.
Public Programs	Hosts public programs and special events throughout the year. Visit nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/index.htm or call 219-395-1882 to learn more.	Hosts variety of programs and special events. Visit calendar.dnr.IN.gov or call 219-926-1390 to learn more.
Cultural Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diana of the Dunes (West Beach) • Century of Progress Homes • Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm • Sacred Sands Audio Tour (Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk) • Indiana Dunes Visitor Center • Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Center • JD Marshall Underwater Nature Preserve • Wilson Shelter • La Petite Fort Revolutionary War Historic Battle Marker • Historic Stone Gatehouses • Historic Beach Pavilion

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	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
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							•
Brookdale Park				•			•
C&O Greenway		•					
Calumet Bike Trail		•					
Calumet Park						•	•
Campbell Street Access						•	
Central Avenue Beach	•					•	
Chustak Public Fishing Area				•			
Coffee Creek Park				•			•
Coffee Creek Preserve			•	•	•		•
Countryside Park and Alton Goin Museum				•			•
Cowles Bog Trail			•		•		
Creek Ridge County Park				•			
Creepside Trails		•			•		•
Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve							•
Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve							•
Deep River County Park					•		
Deep River Water Trail						•	
Deer Trail Park				•			•
Drazer Park							•
Dunbar Beach Access	•					•	
Dune Succession Trail / Diana of the Dunes Dare			•		•		
Dunes Kankakee Trail		•					•

Type of Outdoor Adventure	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Paddling	Wandering
Dunn's Bridge County Park				•		•	•
East Branch Little Calumet Water Trail				•		•	
East Chicago Marina				•		•	
Erie Lackawanna Trail		•					
Festival Park						•	
Forest Park							•
Foundation Meadows Park and Butterfly Meadows							•
Founders Square Park and Hannah's Hope Playground							•
Friendship Botanic Gardens							•
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest			•		•		•
Gibson Woods Nature Preserve							•
Glenwood Dunes Trail					•		
Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve							•
Grand Illinois Trail		•					
Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park				•		•	•
Great Marsh Trail			•				•
Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary			•	•			•
Hammond Marina				•		•	
Haven Hollow Park				•			
Hawthorne Park				•			•
Heron Rookery Trail and Reynold's Creek			•	•			•
Howe Road Bridge						•	
Huber's Annex Marina South				•			
Imagination Glen Park		•		•	•		
Indiana Dunes National Park	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Indiana Dunes State Park	•	•	•		•	•	•
Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center			•				•
Indiana Dunes Visitor Center		•	•				•
Iron Horse Heritage Trail		•					
Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area			•	•		•	
Jerry Pavese Park				•		•	
Johnson Park						•	
Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area			•	•		•	
Kankakee Meanderlands Wetland Conservation Area						•	
Kankakee River National Water Trail			•	•		•	

Type of Outdoor Adventure	Beaches	Bicycling	Birding	Fishing	Hiking	Padding	Wandering
Kankakee Sands			•				•
Karwick Nature Park				•			•
Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve						•	•
Kemil Beach	•					•	
Kingsbury State Fish and Wildlife Area			•	•		•	
Kingsbury Water Trail Access						•	
Lake Michigan Water Trail				•		•	
Lake View Beach Access & Picnic Area	•					•	
Lakeland Park				•			•
Lakes of LaPorte Water Trail				•		•	
LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area				•		•	
Leo Jasinski Public Access						•	
Lincoln Memorial Trail		•					
Little Calumet River Levee Trail		•					
Little Calumet River Trail					•		
Long Lake Public Access				•		•	
Louis Alyea Park							•
Luhr County Park				•			
Marina Shores at Dune Harbor				•			
Marquette Greenway		•			•		
Marquette Park	•		•	•		•	
Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve			•				•
Michigan City Harbor (Washington Park Marina)			•				
Monon Trail		•			•		
Mount Baldy	•		•				•
New Buffalo Beach & Boat Ramp						•	
Oak Ridge Prairie & Oak Savannah Trail		•			•		
Ogden Gardens Park							•
Outback Trail		•	•		•		
Paul H. Douglas Trail (Formerly Miller Woods)			•		•		
Penny Greenway		•					
Pine Lake Marina				•		•	
Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail							•
Port of Indiana - Burns Harbor			•	•			
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk				•		•	•

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

PEDAL POWER *Rentals*



Start at the Visitor Center:
1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter, IN



SKIP THE DUNES LINES

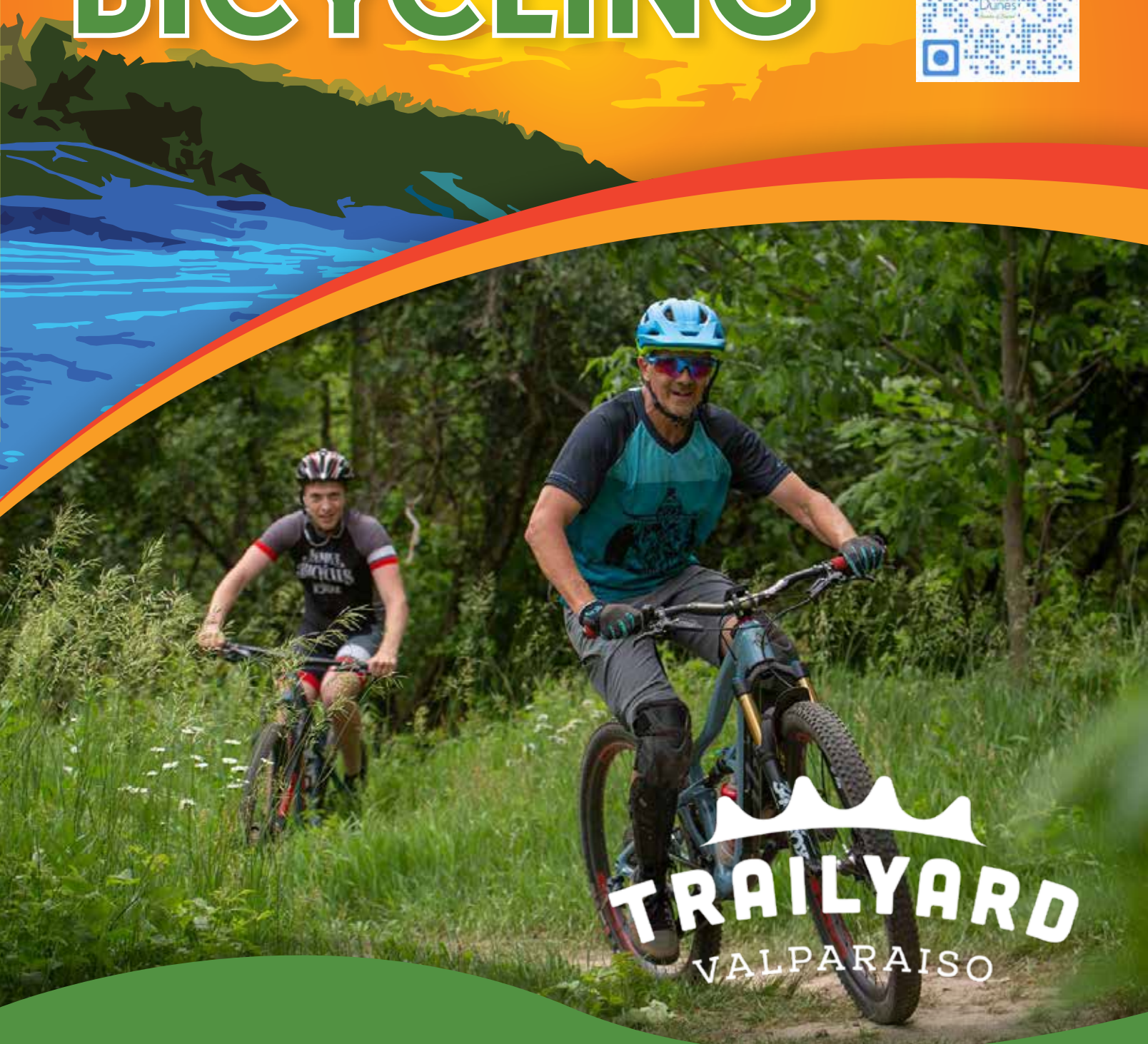


Pedal your own path. Rent a Pedal Power bike to truly experience the Indiana Dunes. Go where you want, when you want, and at your own pace. Isn't freedom far out?

Visit IndianaDunes.com/Pedal-Power to learn more.



BICYCLING



Trailyard Valparaiso

Creekside Trails welcomes adventurers of all levels, catering to seasoned mountain bikers and families alike. Whether you're hitting the trails on two wheels or exploring on foot, unforgettable memories await.

Next to the trail, Trailyard serves as your go-to for all things outdoors. Offering bike service and rentals, a wide selection of mountain bikes, an outdoor gear shop, coffee shop, restaurant and bar, Trailyard is your destination for epic outdoor experiences. Visit us online at TrailyardValpo.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
discoverytrail.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.

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.

State Road 55 (Taft St.) to Mississippi, Merrillville
trailink.com



Calumet Bike Trail

This rugged 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. Only hiking and mountain biking are suggested.

U.S. 12 South, Beverly Shores to N. Mineral Springs Rd.
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Creekside Trails

This multi-use trail system has 13+ miles of soft surface corridors 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

Bike or walk from the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to the Indiana Dunes State Park on this approximately two-mile paved trail, and access the Calumet Trail. The trail also connects to the South Shore Line's Dune Park train station.

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter
219-395-1882

nps.gov/indu



Erie Lackawanna Trail

At 17-miles in length, the Erie-Lackawanna Trail represents the longest contiguous off-road trail facility in Northwest Indiana. Running from downtown Hammond, into the heart of Crown Point, the Erie-Lackawanna Trail traverses through six Lake County communities and connects into four downtown districts. The trail connects to Oak Savannah Trail, Monon Trail, and the Little Calumet River Levee Trail.

Hammond to Crown Point
219-853-6300

trailink.com



Grand Illinois Trail

The Grand Illinois Trail is a 535-mile loop trail in northern Illinois and connects to the Pennsy Greenway Trail. Approximately 200 miles is on paved township and county roads while the rest is on limestone trails or paths.

Chicago, IL

dnr.illinois.gov



Pedal at Your Own Pace

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.



Imagination Glen Park

At 276 acres, Imagination Glen is the largest park in the City of Portage. It is home to softball and soccer complexes, two sand volleyball courts, a BMX race track, and the 10-mile Outback Mountain Bike Trail. The park also contains a large nature preserve, two playgrounds, picnic shelters, open play space, and access to fishing.

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.

3855 S. 1100 West, Westville
219-325-8315

laportecountyparks.org



Safety Tips

Be Alert and Stay Safe with These Safety Tips

- Wear a helmet and bright-colored clothing.
- 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 & Repair

Camp Stop General Store

2 W. Dunes Highway (U.S. 12), Beverly Shores
219-878-1382

[Find them on Facebook](#)

Chesterton Bicycle Station

116 S. 4th St., Chesterton
219-926-1112

chestertonbicycle.com

Leo's Mobile Bicycle Service

1155 Marsh St., Ste. E, Valparaiso
219-246-2504

leosmobile.com

Pedal Power Bike Rentals

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter
219-926-2255

indianadunes.com



Little Calumet River Levee Trail

The Little Calumet River Levee Trail zig-zags east-west between Gary and Munster in Lake County, providing access to the river and its wetlands, and offering ample opportunities for birding and wildlife watching. The trail is paved and nicely maintained, suitable for walking, jogging, biking and other non-motorized uses.

Munster to Gary
trailink.com



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;
Sheridan to Indianapolis
bikethemonon.com



Oak Ridge Prairie & Oak Savannah Trail

A majority of this 10-mile trail traverses through lush woodlands, and offers riders and hikers alike an unparalleled natural experience. The trail starts at the Oak Ridge Prairie County Park, snaking through downtown Hobart, and connecting to the Prairie-Duneland Trail.

301 S. Colfax St., Griffith
 219-769-7275
nps.gov/indu



Outback Trail

This 10-mile multi-use mountain biking trail in Portage's Imagination Glen Park is a popular destination. The trail is available for use by hikers, bikers, runners, and birdwatchers. Three miles on the western side of Salt Creek is available for beginning-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
portagein.gov

Pennsy Greenway

The 14.5-mile Pennsy Greenway stretches between Calumet City, Illinois, and Schererville, Indiana. It is part of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Great American Rail-Trail, which spans the United States between Washington, D.C., and Washington State.

Calumet City, IL to Schererville, IN
schererville.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. Hwy. 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. *149 to County Line Rd., Portage* 219-762-1675 inportageparks.com



Steel Wheels BMX Track

This outdoor track, located in Imagination Glen Park East, hosts USA BMX-sanctioned races and is open on select days to the public. The facility includes a dirt-racing track, concession area, announcing tower, staging area, and finish line. Be sure to call ahead for detailed information on public riding. *2190 State Rd. 149, Portage* 219-406-9833 usabmx.com/tracks/1548

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. *Northwest Indiana 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* traillink.com



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.

BIKES ON TRAINS

Take your bike on labeled, bike-friendly trains.

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/PLAN-YOUR-TRIP](http://mysouthshoreline.com/plan-your-trip)
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



BIRDING



IndiGo Birding Nature Tours

IndiGo offers customized birding tours at the Indiana Dunes, throughout the Great Lakes region, and weeklong trips to Central America. They know all the best spots in both the Indiana Dunes National Park and the State Park. IndiGo specialize in personal attention and teaching, helping all levels of bird enthusiasts increase their appreciation of birds and nature. Plus, they have fun! Visit IndiGoBirding.com, call 812-679-8978, or email David@IndigoBirding.com to find out more and schedule your tour. Availability varies with season.



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. The Grand Kankakee Marsh is 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

in.gov/dnr



Beverly Shores Project Area

This area comprises hundreds of mostly non-contiguous lots in the Town of Beverly Shores and Pine Township, totaling more than 80 acres. They form part of the Great Marsh from Gary to Michigan City.

500 S. Broadway Ave.,
Beverly Shores
219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



Coffee Creek Preserve

This beautiful 157-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.

2401 Village Point, Chesterton
219-926-1842

coffeecreekpreserve.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 a large population of Marsh Wren.

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

nps.gov/indu



Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest

Gabis is a popular location for birding enthusiasts and offers more than 300 acres of dog-friendly walking trails, gardens, woodlands, and wetlands. Their award-winning attraction is a half-mile model railway garden complete with waterfalls, elaborate bridges, and an impressive 14-foot change in elevation. There is an entrance fee.

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



Unbelievable Migrations

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.

Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary

A truly unexpected find. A small, 600-meter track 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
219-853-6378

indianabirdingtrail.com or
hammondportauthority.com

Heron Rookery Trail and Reynold's Creek

For more than 60 years, herons nested here along 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.

1336 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 8,179 acres of wetland, upland, and woodland habitat, providing an ideal stopover for migratory birds. Beginning in early October, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, ducks, and occasionally even federally endangered whooping cranes gather here. By late November—peak fall viewing time—daily crane counts swell to 15,000 or more.

Visitors are required to sign-in.

5822 Fish and Wildlife

Ln., Medaryville

219-843-4841

in.gov/dnr



Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

The 4,199-acre area is a popular destination for fishing, birding, and kayaking and is known for its excellent waterfowl and dove hunting opportunities. The National Audubon Society has designated it as an Important Bird Area.

4320 W. Toto Rd., North Judson

574-896-3522

in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/properties/jasper-pulaski-fwa



Kankakee Sands

Kankakee Sands conserves more than 10,000 acres of prairie, savanna, and wetlands. A bison herd of nearly 100 animals helps manage the prairie through grazing. Approximately five miles of trails lead through Kankakee Sands and a two-hour self-guided driving tour circles the property.

3294 N. U.S. Hwy. 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 #IndianaDunes

Start Birding at:
IndianaDunes.com/Birding

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK AT GREAT MARSH TRAIL





Kingsbury State Fish and Wildlife Area

Formerly the site of a WWI ordnance plant, Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife Area now provides quality hunting and fishing opportunities on 7,280 acres of grasslands, crop fields, thick brush, marsh areas, and a 30-acre lake. The Kankakee River forms the south boundary. 5344 S. Hupp Rd., LaPorte, 219-393-3612 in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3089.htm



Marquette Park

This 241-acre park offers 1.4 miles of Lake Michigan beaches, inland ponds, tall dunes, and wetlands as well as a lagoon, indigenous oak savanna, and two historic Prairie School structures—the stately Recreation Pavilion built in 1924 and the Gary Bathing Beach Pavilion "Aquatorium" built-in 1922. 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 (Formerly Miller Woods)

Black oaks dominate savanna woodlands that are home to 287 recorded species of plants and animals. Hike or ski the 0.9-mile Miller Woods loop trail, which leads past an overlook of marsh that teems with wildlife, including rare blue-spotted salamanders and western chorus frogs. 100 N. Lake St., Gary 219-395-1824 nps.gov/indu



West Beach

A bathhouse, a huge swath of sand, and a stationed summer lifeguard make this beach one of the most popular Lake Michigan spots. For inland fun, climb the 250+ stairs of the Diana of the Dunes Dare (Dunes Succession Trail) with interdunal ponds and a mile-long boardwalk. 376 N. County Line Rd., Gary 219-395-1882 nps.gov/indu



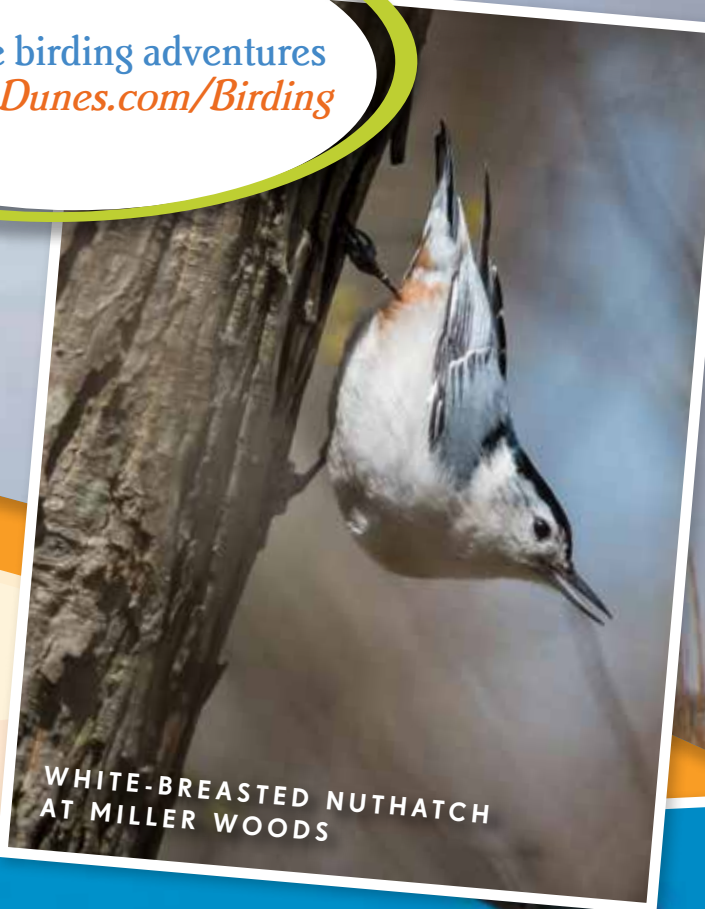
Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Impressive restoration work continues to make this former dumping site a shorebird sanctuary, suitable for a swath of migrating birds to rest, feed, and prepare for their continued journeys. The sanctuary will also provides space for permanent wildlife residents, native flora, as well as amenities for their human friends. 1050 S. 11th St., Chesterton 219-477-8247 westchesterbird.org



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.

Find more birding adventures
at IndianaDunes.com/Birding



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH
AT MILLER WOODS

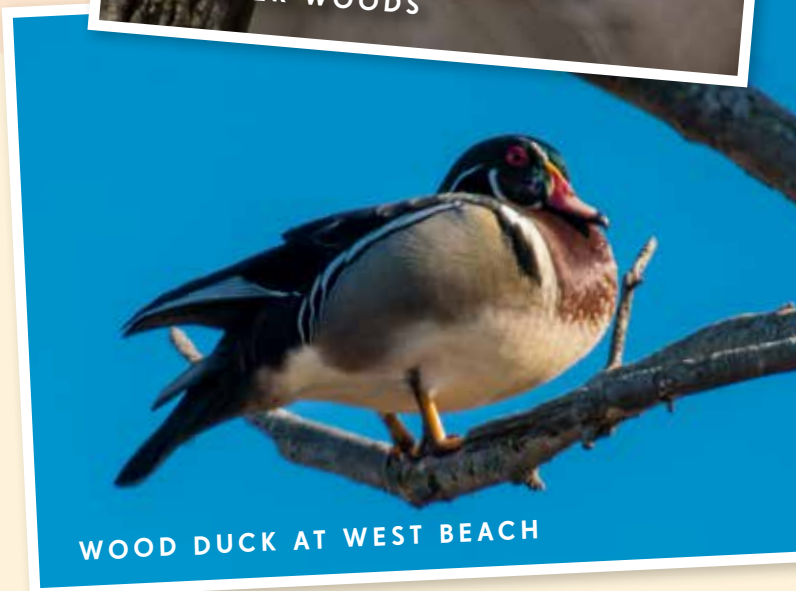
A Birder's Paradise

“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

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.



WOOD DUCK AT WEST BEACH

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.



ACCESS SAVINGS WITH YOUR FREE INDIANA DUNES DEALS PASS

Shake off the sand south of the Indiana Dunes and dig up real savings with the Indiana Dunes Deals Pass. **With discounts ranging from a free scoop of ice cream to savings on activities, you're sure to find something to enjoy.** How many local businesses can you redeem your discounts at?

HOW IT WORKS:



Receive a text or e-mail with a link to your passport.



Redeem your discounts at local businesses.



Show your phone at local businesses to redeem savings.



Scan the QR code to sign up OR visit [IndianaDunes.com/Experiences](https://www.IndianaDunes.com/Experiences) to get your pass.



FISHING



Slez's Bait Shop & Triplecatch Charters

Slez's Bait Shop has been in the same location since 1987. A mom and pop spot since day one, Sleziak's opens everyday of the year at 5am. They'll set you up with everything you need no matter the season. For those looking for something a little more hands on, Captain Rich Sleziak is a full-time charter captain specializing in Salmon and Trout. Two boats are run on regular charter trips out of Portage, Indiana at Marina Shores with a "No Fish, No Pay" guarantee. Call 219-588-5929 to learn more.



LAKE MICHIGAN

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 Trail and Reynold's Creek

1336 N. 600 East, Michigan City
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



Wide-Open Lake Michigan

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.

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.

Wykes Plampin Nature Preserve
 Brummit Rd., Chesterton
 219-24 2-8558
heinzetrust.org



LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area
 4752 W. 1050 North, Lake Village
 219-992-3019
in.gov/dnr



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
in.gov/dnr



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
 219-552-0033
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



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

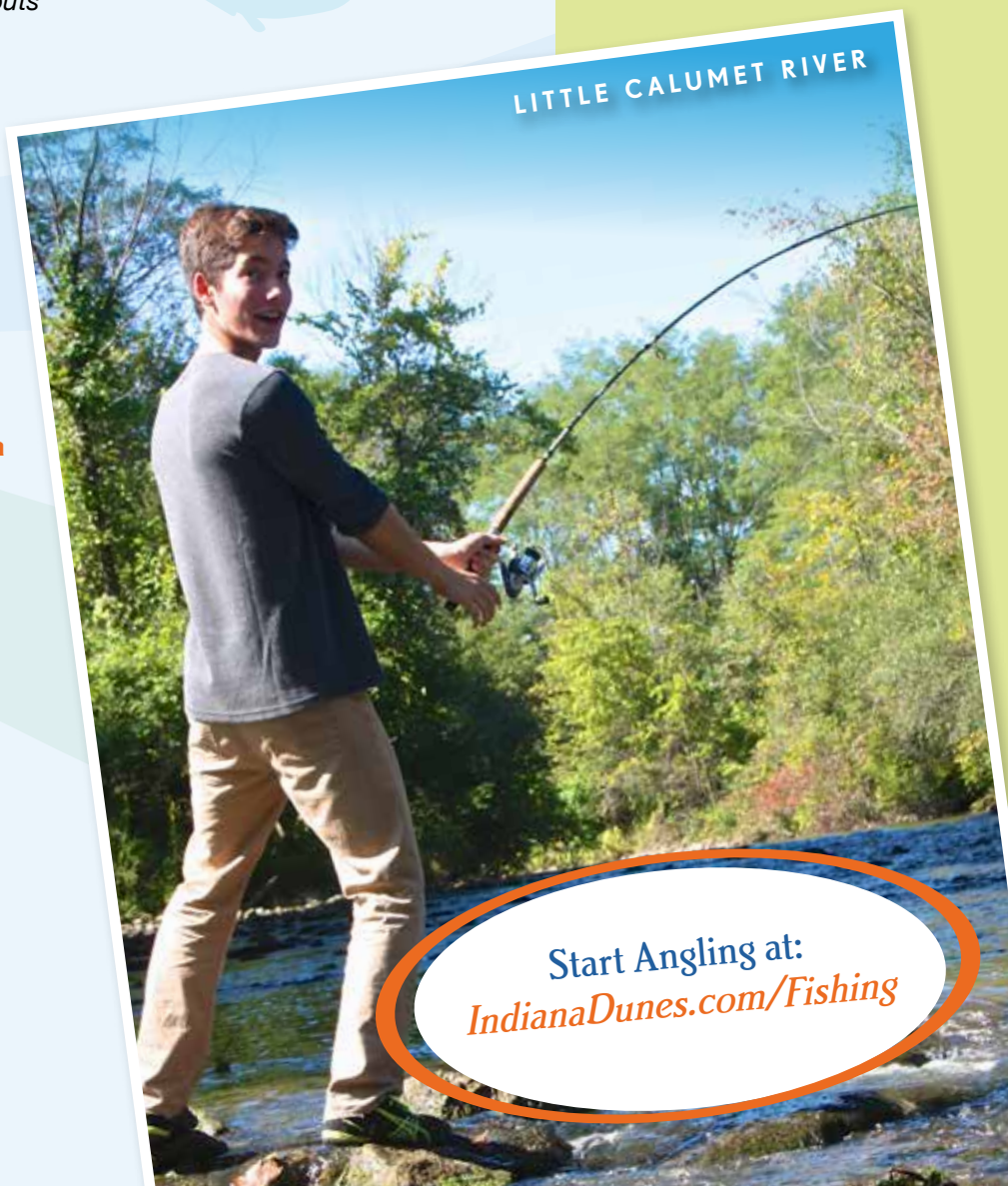
500 S. Lake Park Ave., Hobart
 219-942-2987
cityofhobart.org



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.



Start Angling at:
IndianaDunes.com/Fishing

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
indianabirdingtrail.com or
hammondportauthority.com



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 Preserve

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



What to Catch by 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.



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 Campbell St. 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
mcmarina.org



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





LAKE MICHIGAN

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.

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

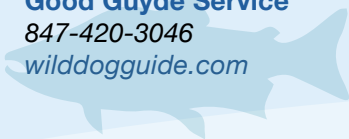
Brother Nature Charter Fishing
877-725-6665
brother-nature.com

Rainmaker Charters
219-762-9336 or 317-945-3293
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



SALT CREEK



PORT OF INDIANA - BURNS HARBOR



WASHINGTON PARK BEACH & ZOO

WHICH BEACH IS WHICH?



Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Make this your first stop. You'll be able to stroll the grounds, talk to our destination ambassadors, walk through an ever-changing exhibit room, learn about the Dunes at our in-house movie theater, and buy mementos in our gift shop.

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter
219-926-2255

indianadunes.com

1 Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

The National Park's western visitor center hosts exhibits, classrooms, and provides access to the 3.4 mile Paul H. Douglas (formerly Miller Woods) Trail.

100 N. Lake St., Gary

2 West Beach

A bathhouse, a huge swath of sand, and a stationed summer lifeguard make this beach one of the most popular Lake Michigan spots. For inland fun, climb the 250+ stairs of the Diana of the Dunes Dare and Dunes Succession Trail.

376 N. County Line Rd., Gary

3 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

This 57-acre area features an enclosed pavilion, seasonal food services, restrooms and a breakwater for fishing and bird watching.

6150 U.S. 12 (100 Riverwalk Rd.), Portage

4 Cowles Bog Trail

This 4.7-mile trail is where Henry Chandler Cowles conducted his study of dunes' vegetation succession. Pass through wooded dunes and wetlands until you reach a quiet beach.

1450 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter

5 Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm

The homestead is named for Joseph Bailly, the first known non-native region resident around 1820, while Chellberg Farm still looks much like it did in the early 1900s.

618 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter

6 Porter Beach

A popular gathering spot for splashing in the water, playing beach sports, and catching some rays next to high dunes. There are bathrooms and a small foot wash area.

3057 Wabash Ave., Porter

7 Indiana Dunes State Park

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

The Indiana Dunes State Park is 2,182 acres of dunes, marshes, swamps, hardwood forests, white pine groves, and a summer lifeguarded beach. The park has 16.5 miles of trails, including The 3 Dune Challenge, and offers camping and a park naturalist.

1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton

8 Glenwood Dunes Trail

Cross over two ancient dune ridges created as Lake Michigan receded 11,000 years ago. This trail is used for hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

1475 N. Brummitt Rd., Chesterton

9 Kemil Beach

Enjoy one of the most scenic drives in Porter County getting to the Kemil Road Beach parking lots. Then enjoy a nice stretch of beach or walk down to Lake View Picnic area.

27 N. East State Park Rd., Beverly Shores



10 Dunbar Beach
 \$ 🚻 P 20 🐾 🏠 🚰

Parking is limited at this prime spot near the Lake View Picnic Area and the historic Century of Progress homes. Enjoy this beautiful beach in a residential neighborhood.
 300 W. Lake Front Dr., Beverly Shores

11 Lake View Beach & Picnic Area
 🚻 \$ 🚻 P 15 🏠 🚰

With easy access from your car to a sitting area with a stunning view, Lake View is also a popular spot for enjoying the beach with picnic shelters overlooking the lake.
 50 W. Lake Front Dr., Beverly Shores

12 Dunewood Campground
 🚻 🏠 \$ 🚻 🐾 🏠 🚰

This campground has 66 reservable wooded sites with restrooms and showers available. There is no electrical hookup.
 645 Broadway, Beverly Shores
recreation.gov

13 Central Avenue Beach
 \$ P 70 🐾 🏠 🚰

A great place to hike flower-filled fields, marshes, and woodlands, bike the Calumet Bike Trail, or watch bank swallows, shorebirds, and waterfowl.
 151 Central Ave., Michigan City

14 Mount Baldy & Beach
 \$ 🚻 P 70 🐾 🏠 🚰

The largest "living" dune in the National Park, Mount Baldy moves at least four feet every year, burying everything in its path, including trees. While the beach is open year-round, all hikes to the summit must be led by authorized Indiana Dunes National Park rangers.
 101 Rice St. (U.S. 12), Michigan City

15 Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail
 \$ 🚻 P 16 🏠 🚰

A floating boardwalk traverses the landscape where you'll see insect-eating plants and unexpected environments. Upland Trail is open year-round, but Pinhook Bog is only accessible on select days.
 946 N. Wozniak Rd., La Porte



SWIM SAFETY
 Lake Michigan can be deceiving and is like an ocean in terms of strength and unpredictability.

- Don't swim when high waves are present.
- Be conscious of rip currents and swim parallel to the shoreline if caught in one.
- Supervise children at all times.

Learn more at Weather.gov/Safety/Ripcurrent.

Accessible	Nature Center
Alcohol Prohibited	Paddling
Camping	Parking
Equestrian Trails	Pet-Friendly
Fee	Picnicking
Gift Shop	Restroom/Portables
Hiking	Snack Bar
Lifeguards	Swimming Beach

Interstate	US Hwy	State Hwy
Freeway	Water Trail	
Tollway Freeway	Hiking Trail	
Highway	Cycling Trail	
Primary Road	National Park	
Secondary Road	Wetland	
Stream	State Park and State Nature Preserve within boundary of the National Park	
County Line		
Visitor Center		
Train Station		

1 mile

Important Information

Fishing Licenses

Unless otherwise exempted, you must have a valid fishing license to fish. A valid trout/salmon stamp is also required to fish for or take trout and salmon from public waters.

How to buy a license:

For information on purchasing a fishing license, contact the Indiana DNR Customer Service Center.

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.

Protect Our Waters

- Avoid in-water hull scraping.
- Do not dump unused minnows into the water. 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.
- Keep your engine tuned to minimize leaks and look for contractors or marinas that offer a bilge pump-out service.



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 ½ 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](#)

LOVE & PROTECT



INDIANA DUNES



VISIT WITH CARE



The Indiana Dunes receives millions of visitors every year, and impacts from our actions add up quickly. But what you do while enjoying the Dunes can make a difference.

Scan here OR visit [IndianaDunes.com/Visit-the-Indiana-Dunes-with-Care](https://www.IndianaDunes.com/Visit-the-Indiana-Dunes-with-Care) to learn how you can take the promise, and, "Love the Indiana Dunes like you mean it."





Diana of the Dunes Dare

Visit indianadunes.com to shop for Diana of the Dunes Dare apparel.

TAKE THE DARE



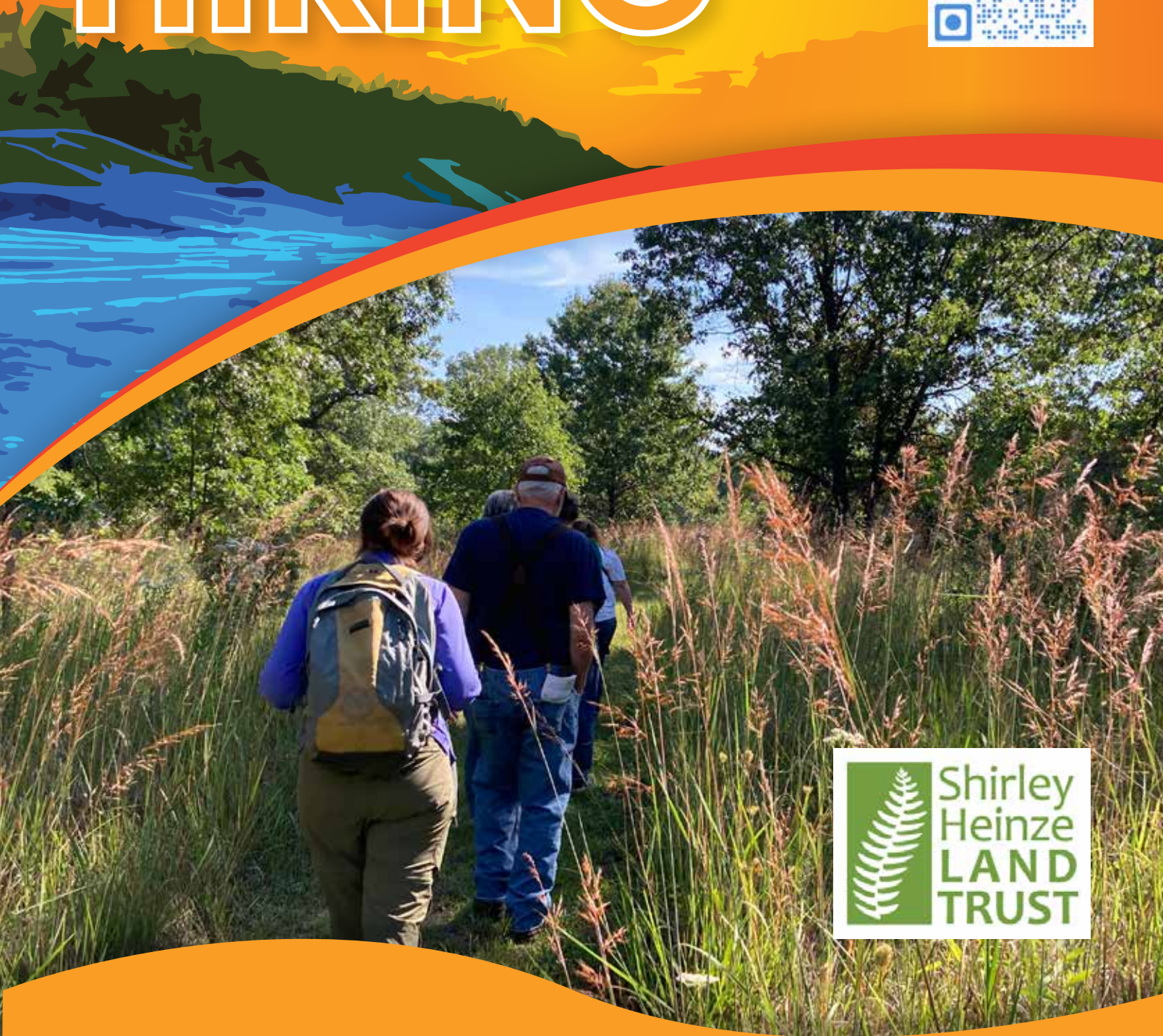
Hike in a local legend's footsteps at Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach. Explore the natural wonders of Alice Gray's (Diana's) beloved Dunes.

Scan here OR visit IndianaDunes.com/DDD to learn more.



Indiana
Dunes
Beaches & Beyond

HIKING



Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been dedicated to the preservation and restoration of significant natural areas throughout northwestern Indiana. With more than 15 nature preserves open and free to the public, there is never a shortage of trails to hike or scenic views to enjoy.

Visit HeinzeTrust.org/Preserves to find a location near you and plan your next visit.

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.

Coffee Creek Preserve

5.5+ miles, several trails.

Map details: Sidewalk Rd. (1050 North), Enter or exit from 49 northbound lane only, Kelle Dr., Coffee Creek Life Center, Chesterton Amphitheater, Phillips Pond, Weir Bridge Creek Overlook, Trettis Overlook, Village Point, Water Plaza, Pavilion, Dickinson Rd., Voyage Blvd., Village Point, Coffee Creek, Coffee Creek, IN Toll Road, Gateway Blvd., 90.

Icons: Wheelchair, Dog, Horse, Person.

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

coffeecreekpreserve.org

Cowles Bog Trail

4.5+ miles, several trails

Map details: Lake Michigan, DUNE ACRES (private property), Cowles Bog Trailhead, Greenbelt Trailhead, NIPSCO Property, Mineral Springs Rd., Coluemet Trail, 12.

Icons: Wheelchair, Dog, Horse, Person, Dollar sign.

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

7+ miles, several trails.

Map details: Canoe Launch, Deep River, County Line Rd., Entrance, Visitor Center, Entrance.

Icons: Horse, Gift, Person.

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

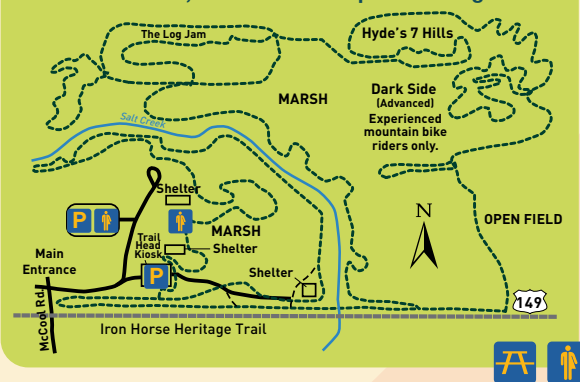
3+ miles, several trails.



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

Imagination Glen Park

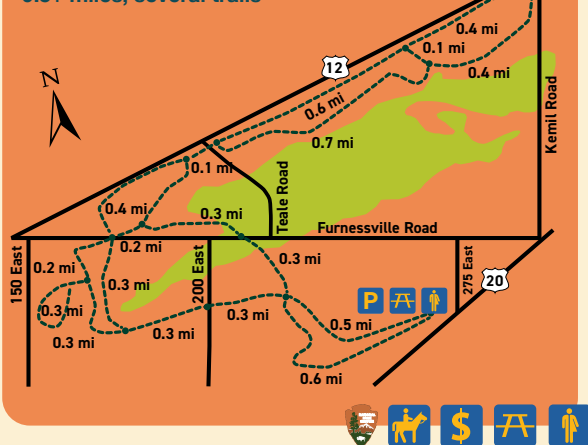
10-mile bike trail, several miles of paved hiking trails



The largest park in the Portage Park system, 276-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

Glenwood Dunes Trail

9.5+ miles, several trails



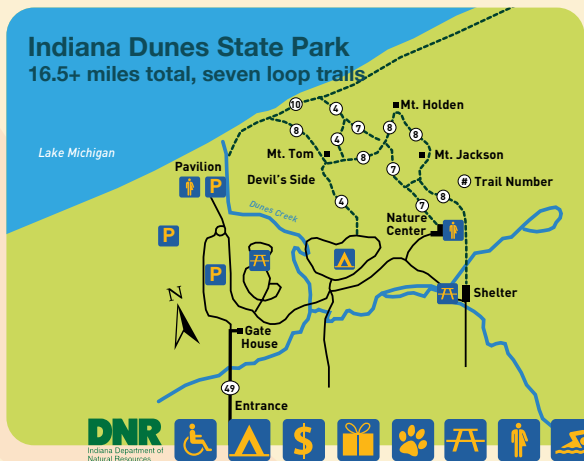
Formerly called "Ly-co-ki-we," this trail crosses ancient beachdunes, which mark the shores of an earlier and larger version of Lake Michigan. Several cutoff trails offer shorter hike alternatives. Glenwood Dunes Trail connects to the National Park's campground by way of the Dunewood Trace Campground Trail.
 1475 N. Brummitt Rd., Chesterton
 219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu

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.

Start Hiking at:
IndianaDunes.com/Hiking



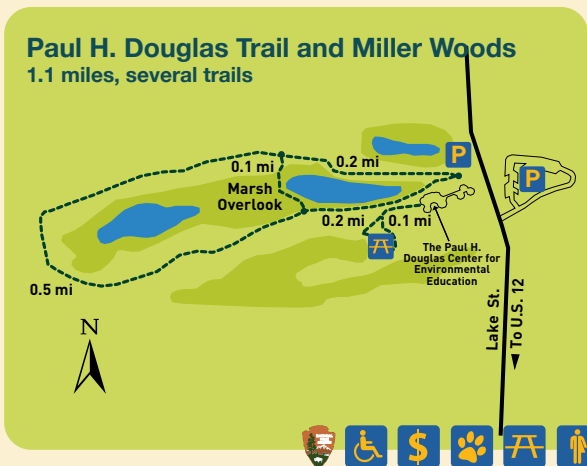
The park's 16.5 miles of trails allow you to explore multiple habitats. And of course the beach offers great walking and wildlife viewing. Scan the open water for ships, look for treasures in the sand at your feet, watch birds on the open water or feeding at the water's edge, and take in the sweeping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



The Little Calumet River Trail is part of a 3.9-mile network of hiking trails that connect the Bailey Homestead, Chellberg Farm, and the Dunes Learning Center. The trail passes through 120 acres of restored tallgrass prairie 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

From Leisurely Strolls to Hardy Hike!

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.



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



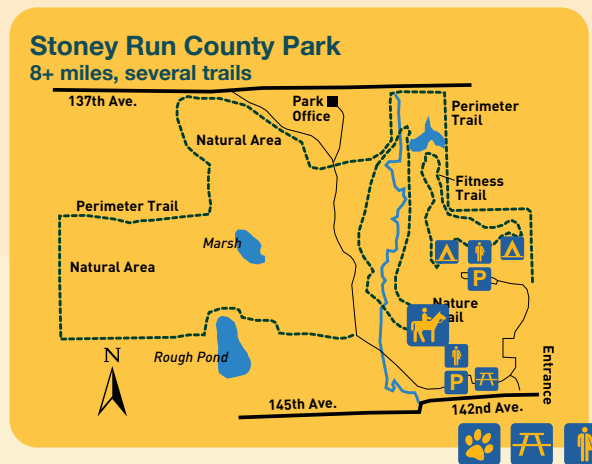
Nestled on 122 acres of rolling woodlands on Valparaiso's northwest side, this park offers picnic pavilions, sledding hill, and a disc golf course. Lakewood Link, a two-mile foot/bike trail connects Rogers-Lakewood Park to Foundation Meadows. The rolling terrain and size of this park make it a great 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.

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



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

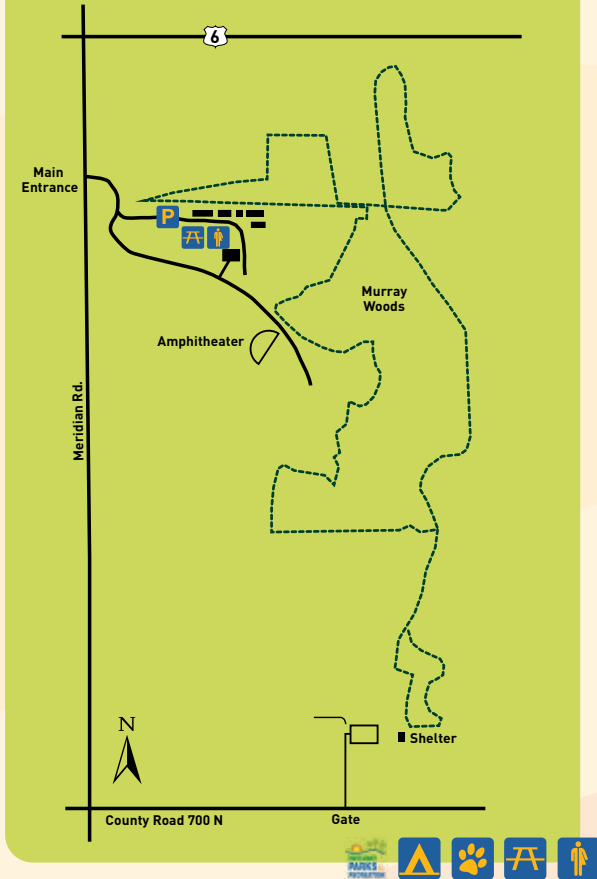


Stoney Run County Park encompasses 316 acres of oak-hickory woodlands, ponds, ravines, and open meadows. Visitors can picnic by the water and hike or ski on eight miles of trails. A trail around the park's perimeter is open to horseback riding. The park's Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors U.S. citizens 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

West Beach Trails

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



DO THE CHALLENGE



Take an epic climb up the three tallest sand dunes at Indiana Dunes State Park. It's 1.5 miles of tough trail with 552 vertical feet of stunning views.

Scan here OR visit IndianaDunes.com/3DC to learn more.

Indiana
Dunes
Beaches & Beyond

VOLUNTEER

DROP-IN PROGRAM



BECOME THE CHANGE



Don't just visit the Dunes, be a part of them! With new volunteer opportunities happening all the time, it's easy for you to be part of the change.

Scan here OR visit [IndianaDunes.com/Volunteer](https://www.indianadunes.com/volunteer) to learn more.


**Indiana
Dunes**
Beaches & Beyond

PADDLING



SHURR ADVENTURES
◀ E V E R G L A D E S ▶

Shurr Adventures

Discover Indiana Dunes Adventure Co.'s wide range of activities in Indiana Dunes National Park, including kayak tours, hiking adventures, and more. Their expert guides lead you through captivating landscapes, sharing insights into the park's history and biodiversity. Paddle through the serene waters of the Calumet River or venture into the park's lush trails. Whether you're seeking a peaceful kayak excursion or an exhilarating hike, Indiana Dunes Adventure Co. offers unforgettable experiences for nature enthusiasts of all levels. Join Shurr Adventures and discover the beauty of Indiana Dunes National Park today!

Visit ShurrAdventures.com or IndianaDunesAdventures.com to learn more.

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: 41.535085, -87.258620
111 E. Old Ridge Rd., Hobart
219-942-2987
cityofhobart.org



Jerry Pavese Park

GPS: 41.530672, -87.261570
500 S. Lake Park Ave., Hobart
219-942-2987
cityofhobart.com

Johnson Park

GPS: 41.563207, -87.290893
3825 Liverpool Rd., Lake Station
219-926-7508
lakecountyparks.com

Riverview Park

GPS: 41.567505, -87.236588
2701 Ripley St., Lake Station
219-962-7508
[Find them on Facebook](#)



Soccer and Rugby Field

GPS: 41.536283, -87.255450
245 E. Old Ridge Rd., Hobart
219-942-2987
cityofhobart.org

Veterans Park

GPS: 41.573169, -87.241942
2447 Putnam St., Lake Station

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.

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: 41.622456, -87.095161
North Howe Rd., Porter
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve

GPS: 41.622203, -87.050273
N. Calumet & Tyler St., Chesterton
219-242-8558
heinze-trust.org



Wykes Plampin Nature Preserve

GPS: 41.615375, -87.016559
North Brummitt Rd., Chesterton
219-242-8558
heinze-trust.org



Paddling Safety Tips

Northwest Indiana Paddling Association

- Always wear a fully secured personal floatation 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.

Start Paddling at:
IndianaDunes.com/Paddling

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.

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
460 Lincolnway, Ste. 322, Valparaiso
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: 41.220115, -86.968861
500 E. and the Kankakee River, Kouts
219-465-3586
portercountyparks.org



**Grand Kankakee Marsh
County Park**

GPS: 41.219614, -87.273945
21690 Range Line Rd., Hebron
219-769-7275
lakecountyparks.com



Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

GPS (Route 8 Access):
41.317480, -86.745912
GPS (English Lake/Yellow River
Access): 41.271183, -86.825596
4320 W. Toto Rd., North Judson
574-896-3522
in.gov/dnr/fishwild



**Kankakee Meanderlands Wetland
Conservation Area**

GPS: 41.449076, -86.624294
Rte. 35, Union Township
in.gov/dnr/fishwild



**Kingsbury State Fish
and Wildlife Area**

GPS: 41.490257, -86.581599
S. 600 East, Walkerton
in.gov/dnr/fishwild



LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area

GPS (Black Oak Bayou):
41.168360, -87.496839
GPS (State Line):
41.167001, -87.526272
GPS (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: 41.606116, -86.414264
60995 Crumstown
Hwy., North Liberty
574-654-3155
sjcparks.org

Shelby Boat Ramp

GPS: 41.183212, -87.340455
Route 55 and Kankakee
River, Shelby
219-769-7275
lakecountyparks.com





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.

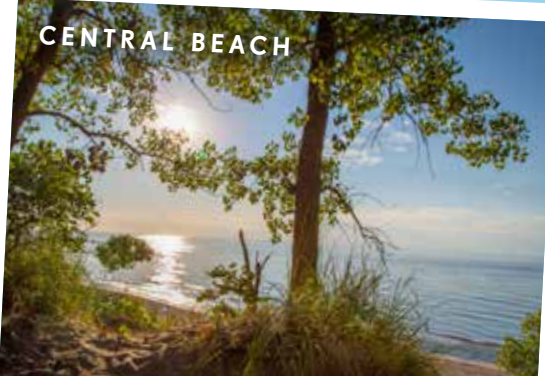
Safety on Lake Michigan

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

Central Avenue Beach

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



Dunbar Beach

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



East Chicago Marina

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

Hammond Marina

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

GPS: 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: 41.682180, -87.009884
27 N. East State Park Rd., Chesterton
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Lake View Beach Access & Picnic Area

GPS: 41.686452, -86.997026
50 W. Lake Front Dr., Beverly Shores
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Marquette Park

GPS: 41.620344, -87.270111
860 N. Lake St., Gary
219-938-7362
marquettetparkgary.org



New Buffalo Beach & Boat Ramp

GPS: 41.802349, -86.749112
200 Marquette Dr., New Buffalo, MI
269-469-1522
cityofnewbuffalo.org

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

GPS: 41.631553, -87.177719
100 Riverwalk Dr., Portage
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Porter Beach

GPS: 41.65964337, -87.069363
3050 Wabash Ave., Porter
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Washington Park Beach & Zoo

GPS: 41.727500, -86.905870
6 on the Lake, Michigan City
219-873-1506
michigancityparks.com



Wells Street Beach

GPS: 41.624363, -87.223365
9501 Lake Shore Dr., Gary
219-938-8275
wellsstbeach.com

West Beach

GPS: 41.611591, -87.2225418
376 N. County Line Rd., Gary
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach

GPS: 41.686843, -87.495928
1500 Park Rd., Whiting
219-659-0860
whitingindiana.com



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



PORTER BEACH



Access Points:**Pine Lake Marina**

GPS: 41.628350, -86.738698
 908 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte
 219-402-1120
cityoflaporte.com

**Stone Lake Beach**

GPS: 41.617415, -86.743134
 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



KES OF LAPORTE
 WATER TRAIL



LONG LAKE AND
 CHAIN OF LAKES



PORTAGE LAKEFRONT



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

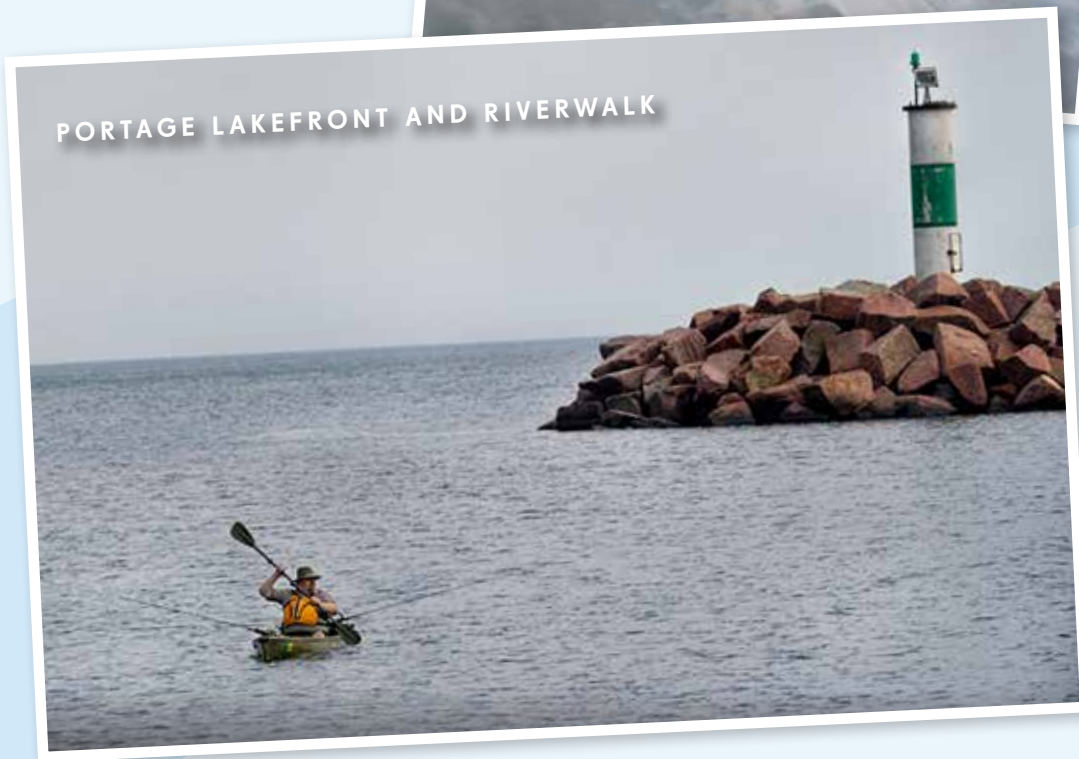
GPS Coordinates:

41.517772, -87.062378

5502 Campbell

St., Valparaiso

219-462-5144



INDIANA DUNES

BACKPACKS FOR NATURALISTS



The Backpacks for Naturalists program offers free, fully stocked backpacks, containing binoculars, field guides, activities, and other useful items for adventure.

1. Ask to borrow a backpack.
2. Fill out a simple form using your driver's license.
3. Use the backpack to explore the Indiana Dunes area.
4. Return the backpack before closing time.



Scan here OR visit
[IndianaDunes.com/
 Backpacks-for-Naturalists](https://IndianaDunes.com/Backpacks-for-Naturalists)
 to learn more.





Indiana Dunes Discovery Trail

DISCOVER EVEN MORE!



The Indiana Dunes is one of the most biodiverse areas in the United States, and we've made a self-guided tour for you to enjoy what mother nature has uniquely provided us. Welcome to the Discovery Trail.

Visit us online at IndianaDunes.com/Discovery-Trail to learn more and get started.



WANDERING



Unleash Your Inner Explorer at Sunset Hill Farm County Park!

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and immerse yourself in the natural wonders of Sunset Hill Farm County Park. Nestled in the heart of Porter County, this hidden gem offers an unparalleled outdoor adventure for thrill-seekers, nature enthusiasts, and families alike. With exciting new additions and 238 acres of picturesque landscapes, Sunset Hill Farm is the ultimate destination for an unforgettable day outdoors.

Visit PorterCountyParks.org to learn more.



WANDERING LOCATIONS

Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve

More than 40 rare Indiana plants are contained within the dense trees. 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 heinztrust.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. 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. Bailly Homestead is named for Joseph Bailly, who set up a fur-trading post here around 1820. After viewing the homestead, hike to nearby Chellberg Farm. 618 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter 219-395-1882 nps.gov/indu



Barker Woods

Barker Woods is a rare example of an old-growth forest nestled in an urban area. The 30-acre nature preserve holds a diverse array shrubs, herbs, and trees. 444 Barker Rd., Michigan City 219-242-8558 heinztrust.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



Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve

See one of the rarest ecosystems in the state at the 41-acre Cressmoor Preserve. Although the trail is a short 0.75 mile, the late summer wildflowers are impressive. 483 N. Lake Park Ave., Hobart 219-242-8558 heinztrust.org



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.

Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve

A key element in the efforts to preserve land in the Little Calumet River Conservation Corridor. Located adjacent to the Heron Rookery and Reynold's Creek, it creates an area of nearly 2,000 contiguous acres of protected land.
 E. 1300 North, Chesterton
 219-242-8558
heinzetrust.org



Deer Trail Park

This small park offers hiking, cross-country skiing, and fishing access. Along the trail, you'll see bottomland forest in a state of recovery as well as interpretive panels.
 Ameriplex Dr., Portage
 219-762-1675
inportageparks.com

Drazer Park (Thomas S. Drazer Memorial Park)

A memorial to the men and women in the Kouts area who have given the supreme sacrifice. The park provides a shelter, tennis courts, basketball courts, a large playground, and a lighted community ball field.
 909 W. Daumer Rd., Kouts
 219-766-3312
koutsindiana.org

Forest Park

Though just ten acres in size, it is a lovely spot for a stroll or for a family picnic. You can wander along trails through a restored two-acre oak savanna remnant.
 564 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso
 219-462-5144
valpoparks.org



Friendship Botanic Gardens

A blend of formal gardens, statues, and serene natural areas. Guests with limited mobility may take golf cart tours scheduled in advance.
 2055 E. U.S. 12, Michigan City
 219-878-9885
friendshipgardens.org



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

The 131-acre Gibson Woods Nature Preserve protects a sizeable remnant of dunes and swales with 3.5 miles of trails through the preserve's dominant habitat.
 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond
 219-769-7275
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.
 200 N. Liverpool Rd., Hobart
 219-242-8558
heinzetrust.org



Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

This 2,069-acre park, located along the historic Kankakee River, floods seasonally, providing an ideal wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife.
 21690 Range Line Rd., Hebron
 219-769-7275
lakecountyparks.com



OGDEN GARDENS



BRINCKA CROSS GARDENS

Wandering at:
www.Wandering.com



FRIENDSHIP
BOTANIC GARDENS



KEITH RICHARD
WALNER NATURE
PRESERVE



HERON ROOKERY TRAIL AND
REYNOLD'S CREEK

Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary

A truly unexpected find. A small, 600-meter tract nestled in the middle of an industrial area. Crisscross the site on a narrow footpath and keep your eyes open for neotropical bird species.

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

indianabirdingtrail.com or
hammondportauthority.com

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.

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

nps.gov/indu



Kankakee Sands

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



Karwick Nature Park

This 23-acre City-owned parcel is bisected by the Trail Creek waterway. There is a public fishing site on Trail Creek, walking trails, observation areas, a pedestrian bridge over the Trail Creek, and off-street parking.

700 S. Karwick Rd.

Michigan City
219-874-7799



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. 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



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.

109 W. 700 North, Valparaiso

219-242-8558

heinzetrust.org



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.

451 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso
219-462-5144

valpoparks.org



Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail

Located several miles inland, Pinhook Bog has a floating boardwalk where you can view carnivorous plants, sphagnum moss, and blueberry bushes. 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



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



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
heinzetrust.org



Soldiers Memorial Park

The 556-acre park surrounds 160-acre Stone Lake and borders Pine Lake. Public bathing beach, hiking trails through woods, fishing, and picnic events are popular activities Pine Lake is very popular for water skiing and sailing. Launch facilities available.
 250 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte
 219-326-9600
cityoflaporte.com



Stoney Run County Park

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
 219-996-6500
lakecountyparks.com/246/stoney-run



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.
 1050 S. 11th St., Chesterton
 219-477-8247
westchesterbird.org



Whiting Lakefront Park and Whihala Beach

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
 219-246-2407
zona-wildlife.edan.io



PINHOOK BOG & UPLAND TRAIL



ZONA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

ACCOMMODATIONS



VALPARAISO INN
BED & BREAKFAST

- Key**
- Bed & Breakfasts
 - Hotels & Inns
 - Campgrounds
 - Vacation Homes
 - PAW Pets allowed






Duneland Communities


	# Rooms/campsites	Indoor/outdoor pool (IP/OP)	Full/continental breakfast (FB/CB)	High-speed internet (Y)
AL & SALLY'S MOTEL INC. 3221 W. Dunes Hwy., Michigan City (Pines) 219-872-9131 alandsallys.com	16	OP		Y
AT HOME IN THE WOODS BED AND BREAKFAST 898 N. 350 East, Chesterton 219-728-1325 athomeinthewoodsbb.com	4	OP	FB	Y
BEST WESTERN INDIAN OAK 558 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton 219-926-2200 indianoak.com	62	IP	FB	Y
COMFORT INN & SUITES - PORTER 1800 W. U.S. 20, Porter 219-250-2181 choicehotels.com/in253	70	IP	FB	Y
DUNES VACATION RENTAL 4942 W. Dunes Hwy., Beverly Shores 773-704-8557 airbnb.com/rooms/22570562	1			Y
DUNEWOOD CAMPGROUND 645 Broadway, Beverly Shores 219-395-1882 recreation.gov	67			
FAIRBRIDGE INN EXPRESS 713 Plaza Dr., Chesterton 219-929-4416 fairbridgeinns.com	41		CB	Y
HILTON GARDEN INN CHESTERTON 501 Gateway Blvd., Chesterton 219-983-9500 hilton.com	120	IP		Y

INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK CAMPGROUND 1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton 1-866-622-6746 indianastateparks.reserveamerica.com	140			
QUALITY INN - CHESTERTON 418 Council Dr., Chesterton 219-929-5549 choicehotels.com/in389	47		CB	Y
RILEY'S RAILHOUSE BED & BREAKFAST 123 N. 4th St., Chesterton 219-395-9999 rileysrailhouse.com	5		FB	Y
SAND CREEK CAMPGROUND 1000 N. 350 East, Chesterton 219-926-7482 sandcreekcampground.org	150	OP		Y
SPRING HOUSE INN 303 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter 219-929-4600 springhouseinn.com	50	IP	CB	Y
WATERBIRD LAKESIDE INN 556 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton 219-928-1501 waterbirdinn.com	40			Y

Portage

AFFORDABLE SUITES OF AMERICA PORTAGE 1550 Olmstead Dr. 219-734-6111 affordablesuites.com	49			Y
BAYMONT INN BY WYNDHAM 2323 Willowcreek Rd. 219-706-3058 wyndhamhotels.com	76	IP	CB	Y
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON - PORTAGE 1630 Olmstead Dr. 219-764-0021 choicehotels.com/in584	100	IP	CB	Y
DAYS INN BY WYNDHAM PORTAGE 6161 Melton Rd. 219-762-2136 wyndhamhotels.com	111	IP		Y

ECONOLOGDE 6101 Melton Rd., Bldg. A 219-254-2934 choicehotels.com/in188		131		FB	Y
HAMPTON INN PORTAGE 6353 Melton Rd. 219-764-1919 hilton.com		60	IP	CB	Y
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES PORTAGE 6295 Melton Rd. 219-734-6000 ihg.com		86	IP	CB	Y
LAKESHORE CAMP RESORT 5300 Old Porter Rd. 219-762-7757 lakeshorecampresort.com		125	OP		
PORTAGE HOTEL & SUITES 6200 Melton Rd. 219-734-6727		100	IP	CB	Y
PORTAGE INN 6142 Melton Rd. 219-763-6601 hotels.com/ho2947523392		50			
QUALITY INN & SUITES - PORTAGE 2300 Willowcreek Rd. 219-763-7177 choicehotels.com/in123		52		CB	Y
OYO HOTEL PORTAGE 1-94 6118 Melton Rd. 219-762-8857 oyorooms.com		65		CB	Y
WOODLAND VILLAGE RV LOTS AND MOBILE HOME PARK 5757 U.S. 20 219-762-6578 wvrvp.com		70			

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES VALPARAISO 1251 Silhavy Rd. S. 219-464-9395 or 888-897-0084 ihg.com		85	IP	FB	Y
PIKK'S TAVERN & INN 62 W. Lincolnway 219-476-7455 pikkstavern.com		2			Y
SONGBIRD PRAIRIE INN AND SPA 174 N. 600 West 219-759-4274 or 219-743-2096 songbirdprairie.com		5		FB	Y
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. 219-464-9840 wyndhamhotels.com		58	IP	CB	Y
VALPARAISO INN BED & BREAKFAST 301 Washington St. 219-242-8934 valpoinn.com		5		FB	Y

Valparaiso

BEST WESTERN UNIVERSITY INN AT VALPARAISO 760 W. Morthland Dr. 219-850-1100 bestwestern.com		53		FB	Y
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON - VALPARAISO 2020 Laporte Ave. 219-476-0000 choicehotels.com/in586		59	IP	CB	Y
FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT - VALPARAISO 2101 E. Morthland Dr. (U.S. 30) 219-465-6225 marriott.com/vrpfj		63	IP	CB	Y
HAMPTON INN & SUITES VALPARAISO 1451 S. Silhavy Rd. 219-531-6424 hilton.com		77	IP	FB	Y





Indiana Dunes TOURISM



Indiana Dunes Tourism

1215 N. State Rd. 49

Porter, IN 46304

800-283-8687

IndianaDunes.com

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

