

## ARE YOU FIT FOR THE JOB?

To work as a seasonal interpretive naturalist in the Division of State Parks, you must:

- Have completed a minimum of two years undergraduate work in natural sciences, outdoor recreation or closely related field, -or- have a combination of work-related experience of equal value up to one year with applicable college courses.
- Attend a three- to four-day interpretive training session in mid-May each year.
- Have a good working knowledge of natural sciences and environmental principles.
- Be familiar with Midwestern flora and fauna.
- Have strong working skills in public speaking, writing, graphic arts, multimedia, and the use of computers.
- Have a valid driver's license.
- Wear a state-provided DNR uniform.
- Provide your own housing and transportation.
- Work most weekends and holidays, and some evenings.
- Be in sufficient physical condition to work outdoors in sometimes strenuous conditions.

## MISSION

The mission of Indiana State Parks is to conserve, manage, and interpret our resources while creating memorable experiences for everyone.

## DIVERSE PEOPLE & PLACES

State parks and state park-managed properties vary in size from 250 to more than 25,000 acres. Their landscapes are rich and varied. Most properties have interpretive facilities such as a nature center or historic home. On weekends, interpretive naturalists offer two or three fun and educational programs per day. The number of programs offered on

weekdays varies by property. Guests are as diverse as the plants and animals interpretive naturalists help them discover. Interpretive naturalists and recreation staff are encouraged to offer a variety of programs ranging from campfires and crafts to hikes, night hikes, and talks. Interpretive naturalists discover what works best at a site through discussions with property staff, the interpretive manager, and full-time interpretive naturalists.

## WHY "INTERPRETIVE" NATURALIST?

Interpretive naturalists do more than identify plants and wildlife. They encourage guests to discover the outdoors for themselves and to value the properties they visit. They share stories and experiences. They talk about everything from wild geraniums to garter snakes, and they listen closely to guests, too! Each property has a unique history and resource-management needs. Interpretive naturalists explore that history through research, programs and, sometimes, actively work to restore natural and cultural resources.



## SPEND THE SEASON AT A STATE PARK PROPERTY!

The Indiana Division of State Parks offers seasonal interpretive positions at all of its properties during the summer months.

### Seasonal interpretive naturalist positions:

- Lasts between three to six months
- Start in April or May
- End after the recreation season
- Possible continuation into fall

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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LEARN MORE



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**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

**DIVISION OF STATE PARKS**  
Interpretive Services

402 W. Washington St., Rm. W298  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## PART OF A TEAM

Seasonal interpretive naturalists are part of a team that includes a property manager, an assistant property manager, a wildlife biologist (on reservoir properties), office staff, full-time maintenance workers, gate attendants, mowing and cleaning crews, and lifeguards. All share the goal of helping guests have the best experience.

### Duties may include:

- Develop and present a variety of interpretive programs such as talks, hikes, kid's programs, campfires, and crafts. The interpretive naturalist generally chooses their program topics based on the resources and facilities of their property.
- Write articles and social media posts, prepare interpretive brochure drafts, and draft property event media releases in consultation with the necessary property staff and the Division of Communications.
- Prepare, publish, and post a weekly or monthly activity schedule, assist with recreational activities, and host various scheduled performing-arts events.
- Develop, construct, install, and maintain interpretive bulletin board displays in nature centers, property offices, and information display cases throughout the property.
- Research the property's flora and fauna.

## A TIME TO GROW & LEARN

A seasonal interpretive naturalist's job may be intense, but it can be one of the most rewarding experiences while providing a chance to:

- Introduce guests to unique plants, animals, facilities, and history of an Indiana state park property.
- Sharpen your identification skills and expand your understanding of the relationships between plants, animals, soil, water, history, and people.
- Work with and learn from other seasonal and full-time interpretive naturalists/recreation staff.
- Develop strong communications skills by presenting hikes, talks, crafts, and other interpretive/recreational programs in a variety of settings.
- Gain valuable experience that will benefit you in choosing and following a career path in natural resources.
- Have fun!

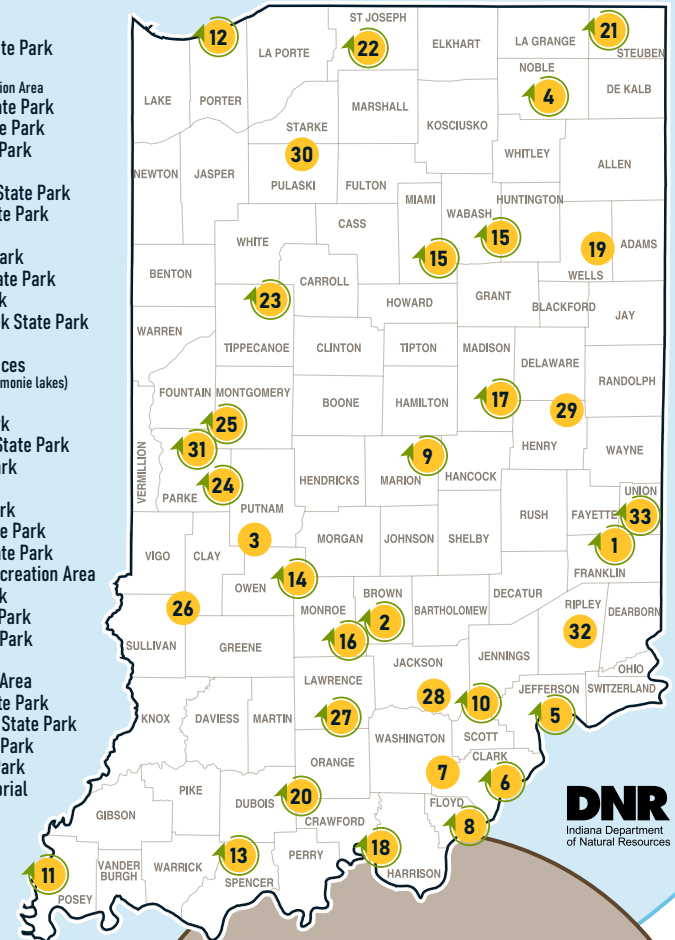


# INDIANA STATE PARKS & LAKES

WITH INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST STAFF

1. Brookville Lake
2. Brown County State Park
3. Cagles Mill Lake  
at Lieber State Recreation Area
4. Chain O'Lakes State Park
5. Charlestown State Park
6. Clifty Falls State Park
7. Deam Lake
8. Falls of the Ohio State Park
9. Fort Harrison State Park
10. Hardy Lake
11. Harmony State Park
12. Indiana Dunes State Park
13. Lincoln State Park
14. McCormick's Creek State Park
15. Upper Wabash  
Interpretive Services  
(Mississinewa and Salamonie Lakes)
16. Monroe Lake
17. Mounds State Park
18. O'Bannon Woods State Park
19. Oubache State Park
20. Patoka Lake
21. Pokagon State Park
22. Potato Creek State Park
23. Prophetstown State Park
24. Raccoon State Recreation Area
25. Shades State Park
26. Shakamak State Park
27. Spring Mill State Park
28. Starve Hollow  
State Recreation Area
29. Summit Lake State Park
30. Tippecanoe River State Park
31. Turkey Run State Park
32. Versailles State Park
33. Whitewater Memorial State Park

Year-Round Naturalist



**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

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