

2009 Successes and Facility Upgrades for 2010 Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs



We hope you enjoy taking a look at some of the projects our staff completed and events they hosted in 2009. Most of the projects have a direct impact on the facilities you use and enjoy when you visit in 2010. Most of the events will happen again this year as well, so check out our special events calendar at www.stateparks.IN.gov for details and dates.

You might be asking yourself how, in a time when the State's budget is very tight, could we be doing so much physical work on our properties. Many of the projects you see mentioned below have had funding in place and plans in development for several years. We have donors, partners and volunteers who help us as well. The YHCC program brought us young adults who repaired/repainted 348 buildings including 42 historic structures, worked on about 375 miles of existing trails and constructed 16 miles of new trails and treated or removed over 3000 acres of invasive plants. And finally, we have creative and dedicated staff who do all they can to find ways to stretch the dollars that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program as far as we can. We want to provide you with a great experience during every visit!

Enjoy taking a look at some of the work we did in 2009 – and know that there are hundreds of other smaller projects and events that are not even mentioned here, but are designed to manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources and history of Indiana's state parks and reservoirs.

We'll see you on the trail in 2010!

Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park

- A permanent veterans' memorial has been installed at Whitewater Memorial State Park's beach.
- A new structure has been built at the site of the Whitewater Memorial State Park's saddle barn to house supplies for the horses.
- Two new bridges have been constructed on the Memorial Loop trail at Whitewater Memorial State Park, a new footbridge has been added to the Fairfield Trail near the trailhead on Fairfield Causeway, and a permanent bench was added to Midway Trail.
- Successful events for property visitors were Spooktacular Camping Weekend, Christmas in July, live music, and cornhole tournaments.
- The bridge on the Scenic Trail has been repaired. Soft spots in the wood decking were patched to ensure many more years of use by the public.
- Staff participated in a fish population survey with biologists from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Staff built a new hay wagon; look for hay rides from the Mounds SRA camp store in 2010.
- A ladder has been added to the docks at Hanna Creek Marina to improve water safety for visitors.
- Whitewater Memorial State Park's beach area has been improved by the removal of the defunct water and wastewater buildings.
- Repairs have been made to the boat dock at Whitewater Memorial State Park to improve stability and usability for years to come.

Brown County State Park

- A deteriorated Civilian Conservation Corps-built native sandstone stairway and adjacent sandstone retaining walls at the Lower Shelter House have been disassembled and rebuilt. Much of the existing stone was re-used, and replacement stone was cut and worked to resemble the original.
- Renovation is in progress to bring one of the campground comfort stations into compliance with ADA requirements; it should be completed by April, 2010. Plumbing fixtures and partition walls are being replaced and a heating system is being installed for cool season use.
- A 600-acre prescribed burn was conducted in a remote area of the park by DNR employees and experts from other agencies. The burn was designed to improve conditions for the regeneration of oak trees.
- A display of promotional materials for an Abe Martin Radio Show has been constructed and placed inside the Abe Martin Lodge. This display was made possible by a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation with cooperation between the Friends of Brown County SP and park staff.
- The Hoosier Mountain Biking Association has added 7.4 miles of mountain bike trails to the park's system, ranging from easy to extremely rugged.
- Ten family cabins interiors have been repainted, as were the interiors of two campground comfort stations. Six family cabin exteriors have been re-stained.
- New insulation has been installed at the nature center to reduce heating and cooling costs, and roof shingles have been replaced. Roof shingles have been replaced on four rustic cabins at the Abe Martin Lodge.
- Stone has been placed in approximately 300 ft. of roadside ditches to reduce storm water erosion, and limbs and brush encroaching on roadside corridors have been trimmed on 10 miles of park roadway.
- A new display depicting aquatic life in the park has been fabricated and installed at the Nature Center.
- A new Abe Martin-themed mural promoting the aquatic center has been installed behind the Abe Martin Lodge front desk.
- Smokey Bear fire danger signs have been repainted at two entrance gates and the park office, as were interpretive signs in the Nature Center's Interpretive Garden.
- The Walking Park History Tour audio text was updated and made available on MP3 players.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- Construction has been completed on the entrance gatehouse.
- Chain O'Lakes now has a property Facebook page.
- Seven property buildings, 16 pit toilets and all property signs have been painted/stained.
- Ten miles of trail have been cleared of brush and trees. New erosion control bars were installed and 2 bridges and their approaches were repaired.
- Invasive species have been removed from approximately 22 acres of parkland.
- Numerous dangerous and dead trees throughout campground and property have been removed.
- The property manager's residence has been renovated.
- Hayrides were provided through the campground during Halloween celebration
- Events included Halloween hayrides, a unique Poker Paddle nature event (a canoe game of cards) and the always popular opportunity to bring your own apples to run through the apple cider press.

Charlestown State Park

- A new traditionally styled park entrance sign now greets visitors.
- Improved directional signage helps visitors find facilities, parking, hiking trails and the Ohio River Boat Ramp.
- Improvements and repairs were made to three hiking trails and structures.
- A new parking lot and picnic area can be found on the Ohio River.

Clifty Falls State Park

- A campground comfort station that can be open year-round is now complete.
- Class C campsites have been upgraded to Class B sites.
- YHCC built a foot bridge on trail 4 over Hoffman Creek.
- An Eagle Scout created a rest stop on trail 9 by installing seven Leopold benches that seat 15-20.
- Wayside interpretive signs were installed that focused on Clifty Inn, resource management, the Clifty Power Plant and more.
- A new winter "Nature Niche" interpretive presence has been established at Clifty Inn.
- Autumn Camping Weekend has been expanded to include "Trick or Treat" night.
- Extensive roadside removal of invasive woody trees and shrubs from the campground to pool has been completed.
- Stone and wood steps have been installed through Trail 2 mudslide area.
- Overlooks have been greatly enhanced at Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls, and High Bridge Cliffs by the removal of trees/brush and invasive plants.
- A new campground laundromat facility has been completed.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- Preliminary design has been completed and fund-raising continues through the Falls of the Ohio Foundation for complete redesign and installation of state-of-the-art exhibits in the center.
- A number of successful special events, including Rock the Rocks, were hosted.
- YHCC crews constructed an overlook and a trail with two bridges at Hale Wetland, providing access to the site. A trail at Willow Woods also improves visitor access to the fossil beds.

Fort Harrison State Park

- The former Kendall Inn is now the new Fort Harrison State Park Inn, resulting in new conference facilities and 32 rooms added to the Fort Golf Course and Conference Center inventory.
- The DNR's first annual Hoosier Outdoor Experience event was held at the park. 2010's event is September 18-19.
- The first state-wide Civilian Conservation Corps reunion was held at the park.
- Several successful re-enactments were held including Civil War Days in September and the Battle of the Bulge Exhibit and reenactment in December, a summer band concert series in cooperation with the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, and the 2nd annual "Return to the 40's" Dinner Dance at the Garrison Conference Center with the Barton Roger's Big Band. Many of these events will return in 2010.
- Approximately 16 acres of native grasses and flowers were planted.
- A natural landscape play area was completed and opened to the public.

Hardy Lake

- Comfort stations in modern campground have been completely remodeled.
- Leslie Grow was hired as the new interpretive naturalist. She will coordinate programming and the operation of the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Rehab facility.
- Through a cooperative effort between the county and the state, an emergency action plan has been established for Hardy Lake Dam.
- Purchase of the Susnick property was completed and renovation of the house on the site is in progress.
- A new hunter check station has been added on the north side of lake on Oard Spring Rd.
- Raptor Days and Fall Family Fun Days brought visitors to the property in spite of rainy weather, and TriRi (Touring Ride in Rural Indiana) used Hardy as starting and finishing point for fall event.
- The picnic area has been extended at the beach and 15 picnic tables added to encourage day usage.

- The Soil and Water Conservation District honored the Hardy Lake Sweep as one of four outstanding projects for 2009.
- The Friends of Hardy Lake provided funding for the rehab of two wagons into program trailers for use during Raptor Days and Fall Family Fun Days.

Harmonie State Park

- The mountain bike trails opened in May 2009. A 3 ½ mile loop mountain bike trail and a 1 ½ mile out and back trail are currently available.
- Sycamore Ridge Picnic Area and shelter have been reopened. This area now provides a trail head for the mountain bike trails.
- The River Front Picnic Area received a good cleanup and expansion.
- Landscaping around the family cabins and the park office has been improved.
- Improvements have been made to all of the drinking fountains in the park.
- Three new interpretive/informational signs have been installed. Two were placed in the campground and one along the road side near Rush Creek.
- New signage has been installed at and along the Horse Trail.
- Improvements have been made to the gravel campsite pads in the campground.
- Fire rings in the campground have been leveled and placed on gravel pads.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- A project that will repair the flood-damaged Dunes Pavilion parking lot and restore Dunes Creek to it's natural state, removing it from the culvert into which it currently flows, is underway. Progress can be viewed by webcam, courtesy of NOAA, at <http://www.earthcam.com/clients/noaa/indianadunes/>. Another interesting webcam, installed by the Borevitz Lab at the University of Chicago, can be seen at: <http://borevitzlab.uchicago.edu/resources/gigavision>.
- Designs for new nature center exhibits are in place. These exhibits, jointly funded by the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and the Division of State Parks & Reservoirs, should be installed in 2010.
- Indiana Dunes State Park hosted the first ever tri-town fireworks on Lake Michigan for over 7,500 visitors. The fireworks were shot from a barge in front of the park's pavilion.
- A total of 59 acres were directly managed for resource management (invasive plant removal)
- The Saw-whet Owl research project conducted by Interpretive Services staff successfully captured, banded and released 19 owls in the fall of 2009.
- Prairie restoration within the newly-dedicated Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve has been finalized.
- Multiple erosion control projects have been completed, including road-edge stabilization, bank stabilization with drain structures and aggregate, top soil and grass seeding projects (roadsides, comfort stations, shelters) and the Installation of 13 rolls of sand fence
- The park staff fabricated a wagon that can be used as transportation for visitors during special events, as well as hayrides on weekend evenings.
- A new section of Trail 3 has been sanctioned, and Trails 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 have been cleared and widened

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)

- The roof has been replaced on the property office.
- Flood damage at the marina and at Cataract falls have been completed, including removal of debris trees, repair to courtesy dock and fishing pier.
- The vault toilet at Cataract Falls, destroyed in last year's flooding, will be replaced with FEMA funding.
- Approval has been obtained to move the marina fuel tank to a higher location.
- Over 20 acres of autumn Oolive and other invasive plants/trees were removed.
- The area near the visitor center where a new amphitheater will be located has been cleared.

Lincoln State Park

- A new bathhouse and accompanying infrastructure have been completed in Gobbler's Run Campground.
- The basement of the group camp dining hall has been renovated to provide an expanded nature center with new exhibits and a bird viewing area, which will open in the spring of 2010.
- Downed trees and debris from a major ice storm in January of 2009 which caused extensive damage have been removed.
- The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration included the following projects:
- Completion of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza as a moving, lasting memorial to Abraham Lincoln and the bicentennial year.
 - Renovation of the 1500-seat Lincoln Amphitheatre in preparation for the premiere season of "Lincoln" a New Theatrical Experience at the Amphitheatre
 - Hosting the release of Indiana's Lincoln Penny, which drew over 3000 collectors and participants to the site.
 - Hosting numerous special events associated with the Lincoln Bicentennial including an archeological dig, the Evansville Philharmonic Concert, the Honest Abe Trail Run and Geocaching with Abe as well as the annual Friends of Lincoln State Park and fall camping events.
 - Coordination of the shipping of the Lincoln Family Album exhibit around the state.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- New state-of-the-art, hands-on exhibits have been installed in the nature center.
- Two observation decks have been installed near Wolf Cave, along with a terraced staircase and cedar fence to protect the trail and help limit erosion at the site.
- The glassboard has been replaced in comfort stations, they have been painted and the wood ceilings have been stripped and refinished.
- The Hillcrest Shelter and the group camp dining room have received a facelift, with a change in the ceiling and new paint. New lighting and paneling are coming soon in both locations.
- The swimming pool and baby pool both have new vinyl liners.
- Original stone walkways at the nature center, pool and concession stand have been cleaned and remortared.
- The first and second floor of the Canyon Inn's east wing have new windows installed.
- The property hosted BBQ and Blues with 700 participants and the event will return on September 11, 2010. The annual Arts in the Park was also successful and will be held June 25-27, 2010.

Mississinewa Lake

- Construction is nearly complete on 38 new, full hook up sites campground that will be available in 2010 for seasonal rental.
- New concrete sidewalks have been poured at the beach.
- Campsite number posts (400) have been removed and replaced with numbers painted on the road and electric box.
- The 4th Annual Mighty Mississinewa Triathlon Event generated over \$6000 for the Indiana Heritage Trust.
- The campground was filled to capacity for each of two Autumn Camping Weekends Events.
- The property prepared the site and hosted Mississinewa 1812 for the
- Reclaimed shoreline area at Miami Ramp and installed 10 posts for boat mooring.
- The Lost Sister trail has received a new layer of stone.

- New glassboard wall covering has been installed in the shower rooms in comfort stations 1 and 4, and new soap dispensers have been installed in restrooms.
- Five acres of habitat were reclaimed in wildlife management areas to improve habitat.
- Five duck blinds have been constructed in waterfowl resting areas and brush has been cut around the ponds.
- Over 100,000 walleye fingerlings were released into Mississinewa Lake.

Monroe Lake

- A new 70 space overflow parking area was created at Paynetown State Recreation Area.
- A new shelter and fish holding facility was developed at Cutright State Recreation Area's Fishing Tournament Site.
- The service building and camp store in Paynetown S.R.A. have been painted, along with vault toilets in four state recreation areas and property signs.
- Bridges have been repaired on the Whitetail and Big Oak hiking trails.
- The roof has been replaced on the Big Oak Shelter.
- More than 348 acres of invasive plants have been removed and stumps treated.

Mounds State Park

- Over 30 acres of invasive bush honeysuckle have been removed and stumps treated.
- Surface debris and small encroaching trees have been removed from the Circle Mound earthwork.
- Locust Grove shelter has been resided and work has begun on Woodland Shelter.
- The artesian well has been repaired.
- Multiple picnic grills and group grills have been repainted and refurbished across the property
- Multiple Eagle Scout projects were completed, including benches at the picnic area playground and trail maintenance.
- The front entrance sign has new landscaping.
- Better pedestrian and emergency access will result from cleaning and repairs along six miles of hiking trails.
- The lower deck on Trail 2 has been replaced and the boardwalk has been repaired.
- A 5-piece set of 1860's parlor furniture was donated to be used in the historic Bronnenberg home.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- The last remaining in-holdings within the park boundary has been purchased.
- The 1 mile Access to Recreation loop trail at the nature center has been completed, providing an outdoor and wildlife observation experience opportunity to all.
- A new 6-mile loop mountain bike/hiking trail has been completed.
- A new accessible amphitheater has been constructed at the nature center.
- Native landscape and butterfly gardens have been added at the nature center.
- New accessible shelters have been constructed at the Ohio River Picnic Area and the Fire Lookout Tower.
- A new accessible floating fishing pier has been installed at Pine Pond.
- New tables, grills and site clearing are significant improvements to the park's Class A campground that have been completed.
- Significant restoration has been completed following the damage from Hurricane Ike and the ice storm of 2009.

Ouabache State Park

- The final 33 electric campsites in the “A” campground now have new 50 amp pedestals, completing a project that began several years ago to upgrade electrical service for our campers.
- Several sites in the A campground have been improved with expanded hard-surface living area and new fire rings set on a concrete pad.
- The second annual WOOF (Wells Outrageous Ouabache Fifteen) trail run was held again in early November. Runners competed in a 15-mile race consisting of 3 laps of designated park trails.
- Attendance for the annual Fall Festival Weekend saw the highest occupancy to date due in part to an ideal weather forecast for outdoor events.
- Attendance at interpretive naturalist programs increased by 5% for 2009.
- Several large, rotten timbers have been removed from Rustic Oak Shelterhouse and replaced with new rough-sawn timbers milled from oak logs previously removed from high use areas within the park.
- Through a local Eagle Scout project new trail marker posts have been installed throughout the park.
- A new campground host site is under construction, and will be ready in time for Memorial Weekend, 2010.

Patoka Lake

- The Moery Log Cabin, which has been waiting for reconstruction, has been rebuilt near the visitor center and will be open to the public in 2010.
- Hiking trails have been cleared and remarked.
- New bridges and clearing/trimming trees has been completed on the disc golf course.
- Comfort station rehabilitation has included new partitions, fixtures, drainage, & ceiling panels.
- Autumn olive and mimosa have been removed from recreation and wildlife areas.
- Stop signs, warning signs and flashing lights have been installed at boat ramps.
- Grimes Lake road has been graded and gravel has been added.
- Blue bird boxes have been installed by volunteer group.
- Hunter access lanes have been cleared in wildlife management areas.
- Property directional and information signs have been repainted.
- A new trail has been cleared and added near the campground.

Pokagon State Park

- With YHCC workers, 1,100 tons of glacial stone have been moved and placed to stabilize the hill sides behind the CCC Shelter and Group Camp Dining Hall. Over 700 feet of hill side/shoreline along Lake James have been restored to protect the lake from sediment.
- A wetland mitigation project in Trine S.R.A. has resulted in 185 feet of new stream bank and the removal of 4,400 cubic yards of fill to restore a wetland.
- The park hosted several successful events, including The Dog’s Day of Summer (200 dogs and many owners), the Sea Plane Splash In (20 sea planes and a thousand spectators with 675 brunches served in the inn restaurant) and the Autumn Harvest Hoedown (400 participants). Look for these events again in 2010 on the Special Events Calendar.
- The park hosted the Steuben County United Way/YMCA of Steuben County Cardboard Boat Regatta.
- CCC shelter, Beach Bath House, Beach Concession Stand and several other buildings have received new coats of paint.
- The Group Camp North Bunkhouse was renovated and reopened.
- YHCC crews collected prairie seed from park plantings, saving the park an estimated \$2,000 in seed costs. These crews have also removed over 100 acres of autumn olive, an invasive shrub.
- The historic Potawatomi dining room has been painted and has a new look. The wood floor has also been sanded and re-sealed.

Potato Creek State Park

- Vault toilets, guard rails, signs and bulletin boards have been repaired and repainted in the park.
- Campsites have received new stone.
- Trail 4 has a newly re-stoned surface.
- Park buildings have been painted.
- New roofs have been installed on the fish cleaning station and the Orchard Shores Picnic Shelter East.
- The cabin sidewalks have received new landscaping.
- An area has been cleared as a prairie demonstration site and a trail will be under construction soon.
- Archeological work was completed on the historic springhouse, and construction is underway to restore it for visitors to see.
- Wayside interpretive signs have been installed focused on resource management and other topics.

Prophetstown State Park

- A seed harvest program has been initiated for prairie grasses and wildflowers.
- Three miles of fencing and fencerow trees have been removed and prepared for 2009 prairie plantings.
- A large gravel bluff restoration project has begun that will be part of the recently-dedicated Prophetstown Fen Nature Preserve.
- Thirty-five acres of new tall grass prairie and wildflowers have been planted and three acres of prairie fen have been restored along Trail 2.
- Ten trail benches have been installed along the bike and hiking trails with the assistance of a Boy Scout.

Raccoon SRA/Mansfield Mill

- The entire trail system has been upgraded, including rebuilding 9 bridge structures and adding 2.5 miles of aggregate to trails.
- The covered boat rental dock has been removed and a different dock has been moved into the boat rental area. A new, 40-slip west boat dock will be installed at the main ramp in early spring 2010.
- Four vault toilets have been renovated.
- Sixty tons of rip-rap have been installed under Locust Shelter seawall walkway & 30 tons of rip-rap have been installed at Walker boat ramp, both for erosion control.
- A staircase has been constructed at the Hollandsburg Boat Ramp to provide easier access.
- New interpretive signage on campground wildlife, reservoir management, fire management and resource management has been installed.
- New foundations were installed for the bridge to the island at Mansfield Mill.
- Two acres of bush honeysuckle have been removed.
- The mill pond at the Mansfield Roller Mill has been cleaned to provide for a constant source of water for mill operations.
- A new guardrail was installed at the Walker Boat Ramp.

Roush Lake

- Kil-so-quah S.R.A. Campground now has electricity at 25 campsites that were previously classified as primitive only.
- Five campsites overlooking the lake have been added at Little Turtle S.R.A. and an accessible site was renovated.
- The property had one of its most successful hunting seasons ever.
- Business at the shooting range increased 45 percent. Plans are underway to add a skeet range in 2010 if time and funds allow.

- Five youth hunting/shooting events and a Kid's Fishing Derby were hosted in 2009, and more events are planned for 2010.
- Property staff organized all the in-park transportation (tractors and trams) for the Hoosier Outdoor Experience.

Salamonie Lake

- A new, year-round comfort station with a family restroom was completed in the modern campground. The vending machine shelter next to the comfort station was rehabbed to match.
- Some modern campsites in modern have been made larger, some new campsites and playground equipment were added to the Horseman's Campground.
- Several successful annual special events were hosted, including the Wabash River Race, Salamonie Sizzler Horse Race, Salamonie Riders Rendezvous, Senior Fall Fest, the Huntington County Bicycle Challenge and our annual fall program we call "Celebrate Fall at Salamonie".
- A new raptor education program is in place at the Salamonie Interpretive Center. Permanently injured birds of prey are on site for use in programming, and funds are being raised for an outdoor display area.
- The Turkey Cove Trail was made wheelchair accessible and over 10 miles of hiking, biking and horse trails were improved by trimming trees and providing better trail surfaces.
- A wetland restoration project at wildlife management unit 24 is 70% complete, and will increase hunting, trapping, and bird watching opportunity for the public by the summer of 2010 when it's finished.
- Thirty people, mostly made up of kids and their fathers, attended the 2-day Salamonie Trapping Camp course. ISTA volunteers and instructors covered all costs for the event.
- With the use a new spray system, dove field planting dove management fields were planted earlier in 2009. The new spray system cost around \$1,000 and saved approximately \$1,500 in fuel, herbicide, and labor costs and has improved experiences for sportsmen and women.
- Five interpretive wayside signs have been installed in campgrounds and at sign-in stations across the property.
- An invasives project, with YHCC staff working full-time all summer, removed 22 acres of bush honeysuckle along 2.5 miles of the Salamonie State Forest road.

Shakamak

- Three campsites in the Class A campground have been rebuilt.
- New boat rental docks have been installed on Lake Lenape and Lake Kickapoo.
- New windows have been installed in family cabins 10 thru 26, and new roofs have been installed on cabins 10 thru 26.
- Three campground bath houses have new roofs.
- The fishing dock by the campground was repaired.
- Re-opened ADA fishing pier on Lake Shakamak after total remodel.
- The park hosted the second annual Sullivan County Native American Pow-Wow, the second annual Kicking Bear event, the annual Halloween Festival and an Easter egg hunt. Look for these events again in 2010.

Spring Mill State Park

- All new exhibits have been installed in the Gus Grissom Memorial, featuring a number of items from Gus' life and work.
- The Grissom Memorial parking lot has been resurfaced.

- The purchase of Cave River Valley Natural Area has been completed and improvements will be made and funds allow.
- The “Nature Nook,” the winter home of the interpretive services, opened in Spring Mill Inn.
- New markers have been installed on hiking trails.
- The dirt bicycle jump park has been expanded to include a small jump course.
- A larger woodshed has been added for the campstore.
- The new park office is under construction and should be open by May 1, along with a new gift shop area for the Gus Grissom Memorial.
- An on-going excavation under the floor area in one of the Pioneer Village buildings will provide information and opportunities for visitors to watch archeological work in action.
- Flat-panel televisions have been added in all guest rooms at Spring Mill Inn, and a guest room bathroom has been upgraded to more fully meet ADA standards.

Summit Lake State Park

- A new comfort station has been constructed.
- Two roof projects have been completed, the office/maintenance building has been painted and comfort station walls have been resurfaced.
- Significant exotic plant control has been completed in partnership with the Redtail Conservancy and an Audubon Society chapter.
- Shoreline erosion control work has helped save two peninsulas into the lake, one of which protects the beach.
- A page on Facebook has been established for the park.
- The beach trail has been upgraded and made accessible.

Tippecanoe River State Park

- The new park sign has been installed and an Eagle Scout landscaped with native plants.
- YHCC staff helped to bat proof the Potawatomi Group Camp buildings.
- Brush and debris have been removed along the banks and walking area of the waterfowl area to make bird viewing easier.
- Over hanging limbs and encroaching vegetation have been trimmed or removed along trails and at intersections on the horse trails.
- Approximately 70% of the park’s 92 buildings and 95% of the park’s signs received a fresh coat of paint.
- The front of the park office has a new look with new landscaping, a fence along parking lot and a new security pole light.
- Ice and firewood sales have been moved closer to the campers by using the campground host site as the sale location.
- The Tippecanoe Beach area of the park has been improved, providing one more walk-in access to the river and a great view.

Turkey Run/Shades State Park Complex

Turkey Run:

- A successful Eagles In Flight weekend was held with nearly 200 in attendance. 2010’s event is scheduled for February 5-7.
- Eight new park benches have been installed by YHCC workers.
- A new fence (234 board feet) and signs were installed at Cox Ford’s Canoe Access Area.
- The board fence (150 feet) around the nature center and tennis court shelter area have been replaced.

- Turkey Run's first newspaper has been printed and distributed. This feature is completely funded by advertising and provides a great tool for publicizing the features and events at the park.
- A new liner has been installed for the pool at Turkey Run Inn.
- Trail repairs have been completed with assistance from YHCC workers, including Crevice Rock Structure, erosion control on trails 3 & 9, a retaining wall on trail # 3, a repaired bridge on trail # 3, and the installation of 60 tons of stone on various trails.
- Shelter stone work, primarily fireplaces and chimneys have been repaired by a skilled mason.
- In partnership with the Rockville Rotary Club, 40 trees and 50 shrubs were planted around the newly constructed amphitheater.

Shades:

- Work continues on new road extension that will provide a new entrance for Pine Hills Nature Preserve, as does work on associated trail improvements.
- Deer's Mill Covered Bridge has been repaired and restored.
- Repairs to Deer's Mill Canoe Access caused by recent floods have been completed.
- A trail structure has been completed at Lover's Leap.
- A successful 2009 deer reduction was held.

Versailles State Park

- A new park office has been constructed that is more convenient for visitors as near the park entrance gatehouse. It also houses the Law Enforcement Conservation Officers for District 9.
- A mountain bike trail information kiosk has been constructed by HMBA near the mountain bike trailhead.
- New interpretive wayside signage has been installed around the park.
- A roof was constructed over the courtyard area at the camp store.
- A group camp cabin floors damaged by insects and moisture was completely replaced by property staff.
- A new roof has been installed on the swimming pool bathhouse.
- YHCC staff, with HMBA supervision, have constructed two miles of mountain bike trail through some very steep terrain yielding excellent views of Laughery Creek Valley and providing a route for a large loop.
- All group camp cabins received an exterior coat of paint, and seven were painted inside.