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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2023

DNR

Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



Memories made naturally.

Below is a snapshot of work we have done to prepare for your visits this year. We have also completed many other projects that will help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.

We continue to focus on completing a variety of deferred maintenance projects that have been funded through the Indiana General Assembly, filling full-time and seasonal staff positions, and following our tradition of excellence in interpretation and our Service State Park Style initiative that focuses on exceeding your expectations.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers. They contribute thousands of dollars and hours of service for projects and events. And our creative and dedicated employees work diligently to stretch what you receive for the fees you pay when you enter, rent a campsite or inn room, launch a boat, or attend a special workshop or program.

Our goal is to provide you with a great experience during every visit—to help you and your family and friends make memories naturally. Indiana State Parks are a great value, both in cost and as great places to get healthy, relax, and support local communities with tourism and jobs.

As you spend time in a state park this year, please practice responsible recreation. Plan ahead and make sure family and friends know where you are going. Prepare well for your outdoor experiences with the proper clothing, footwear and insect repellent, and bring plenty of water so you don't get dehydrated. Ensure that any pets that travel with you remain on a 6-foot leash at all times. Be considerate of your neighbors and leave your site better than you found it when camping. And finally, take any trash home with you that you create while on trails or at picnic areas and beaches.

Get outside with family and friends or on your own, and wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, and wetlands. Slow down for a few hours or days. You'll be glad you did. We'll see you soon!

Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex

- Ventilation, fixtures, and other upgrades are in progress for comfort stations at Mounds SRA.
- Two comfort stations and the camp store at Mounds SRA will get new roofs.

Brown County State Park

- New stone was installed on sites/roads in the horse camp, along with eight new manure bins, and new wheelbarrows and pitchforks.
- Restoration work has been completed on the fireplace at Strahl Lake Shelter.
- Exterior improvements at the nature center include a new amphitheater deck, new stone, and new lighting on exterior pathways.
- Deteriorated 20-amp breaker panels were replaced in Raccoon Ridge Campground.
- The entire park now has a water service connection to the town of Nashville.
- The family cabins have new interior paint, and four rustic cabins (nine units) are being remodeled. Two units will be accessible.
- Abe Martin Lodge has new lobby/lounge area furniture and lighting.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)

- The nature center interior at Lieber SRA was repainted.
- Hazardous trees were removed in the campground at Lieber SRA.
- A new gatehouse was installed at Cataract Falls SRA.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- Several new benches have been added, including the property's first memorial bench.
- Several fish habitat structures were repaired/replaced during the lake's winter drawdown.
- New shower partitions were installed at the women's beach house and in campground comfort stations at Raccoon Run and Songbird.
- Ramps were repaired at Portland Mills SRA and other locations.
- Decking was replaced, the mill pond was cleared, and milling equipment was repaired at the Historic Mansfield Roller Mill.
- Several new staircases, a new bridge, and a small reroute were completed on Trail 4.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- Sixty new campground trees will replace invasive Norway maples that were removed.
- Sixteen new bulletin boards were installed in the campground and at the cabins.
- A new EZ Dock with a kayak launch was installed at the Long Lake boat ramp.
- A courtesy dock was added at the Dock Lake boat ramp, and docks were replaced at Norman and Miller lakes.
- The fishing pier at the canoe/kayak launch on Sand Lake was replaced.
- The full beds in the 18 family cabins were upgraded to queen size.

Charlestown State Park

- The Ranney Wells along the Ohio River were capped, and above-ground structures were removed, except for Well #1, which is being preserved and interpreted.
- Trimming, clearing, and removal of invasives along park roads is underway.
- Conducted successful prescribed fires, including areas near the park office.
- Honeysuckle, autumn olive, and other invasives were removed around the Clark Shelter.

Clifty Falls State Park

- A new campground comfort station and three pre-cast accessible vault toilets were installed.
- The installation of new trail confidence maps and trail signage will be underway this summer.
- The campground/office lift station has been updated.

Deam Lake SRA

- A new campground playground, donated by Relogic, will be installed in May.
- Many campsite pads have new stone.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- Improvements were made to trail structures along the Woodland Loop.
- A new HVAC system will be installed at the interpretive center during the summer of 2023, requiring closure of the center from May 22- Oct. 16. (Fossil bed access, picnicking, fishing, and hiking are still available, as is interpretive programming.)

- The master plan for the George Rogers Clark Home Site (Point of Rocks) and Falls of the Ohio has been completed.

Fort Harrison State Park

- The ADA fishing dock/pier on Delaware Lake has been renovated.
- The levee at Duck Pond/Camp Creek Trail will be repaired this year.
- Eighty new golf carts will be available for use at The Fort Golf Resort in early summer.
- The parking lot at Fort Harrison Inn was resurfaced.
- Bank stabilization/restoration is underway on a section of Fall Creek near the Fall Creek Trail.

Hardy Lake

- Forty-two electric campsites have been upgraded to 50-amp service.
- Alpha Marina boat ramp has been extended to allow launching access at lower lake levels.
- A new metal roof and siding were installed at campground comfort station C.
- Two new accessible vault toilets were installed on property.
- Drop-offs at the end of Carmel and Wooster ramps have been filled.

Harmonie State Park

- Trails 1 and 2 have new bridge structures.
- New accessible vault toilets were installed at the Wabash River Picnic Area and Locust Knoll.
- Campground comfort stations have new sensor-operated sinks.
- Campsite pads got a fresh new 3 inches of gravel, and the campground has a new lift station.
- Ten new frost-free hydrants were provided by the Friends of Harmonie.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- The Wilson Shelter boardwalk is complete and provides an accessible entrance to the wetlands along Trail 8.
- The park office was renovated and now includes accessible public restrooms.
- The camp store has been renovated.
- There is a new gray rat snake enclosure in the nature center.
- The Pavilion Restaurant and Grill are open.

Interlake SRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)

- Two new accessible vault toilets have been installed.
- New bench swings were installed at the Big Kate Shelter overlooking the Rock Craw Garden.

Lincoln State Park

- Four new accessible vault toilets have been installed.
- New appliances have been installed in the cabins.
- New gravel has been placed on campsite pads in the non-electric campground.
- New boat docks are in place at the boat rental.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- Ongoing excavations and utility work are underway for two major infrastructure projects, including the park's connection to municipal sewer services and installation of fiber optic cable to improve connectivity.

- Improvements to audiovisual equipment, exhibits, and signage in the nature center are in progress.
- The park's campground is closed through at least Oct. 1, 2023 due to the impact of the March 31 EF-3 tornado, but the inn, nature center, saddle barn, fire tower, and some trails are open. Monitor on [IN.gov/mccormickscreeks](https://www.in.gov/mccormickscreeks) for property alerts for changes.

Mississinewa Lake

- Three new full hook-up accessible sites will be available after Memorial Day. One will be a pull-through site.
- A new pre-cast concrete comfort station has been installed in the front part of the campground.
- Accessible parking is now available for camper cabins 5,6,7, and 8 in the back part of the campground.
- Five of seven seasonal marshes (7.6 acres) along Liston Creek have been completed, providing migratory bird, reptile, and amphibian habitat and will serve as natural filters for agricultural run-off during flooding at the lake.

Monroe Lake

- New accessible vault toilets were installed in Paynetown SRA (2), Crooked Creek SRA (1), and Cutright SRA (1).
- New benches, shower shelves, and clothes hooks were installed in campground comfort stations.

Mounds State Park

- Three Bronnenberg House chimneys were rebuilt; the fourth was tuckpointed.
- A contract is in place for several visitors center exhibit repairs and updates.
- New benches with a unique back design created/carved by a volunteer were installed.
- Campground comfort station renovations are underway, including new partitions and tile.
- A new set of cornhole boards is located next to the visitors center.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- A new pair of Durham oxen, Carter and Cash, are training to operate the park's historic haypress.
- Bridges and boardwalks on the Universal Accessible Trail based at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center are being repaired.
- All comfort stations have new showerheads, and the interior of comfort station A was painted.
- New hitching rails and fire rings were installed in the Electric Horse Camp.
- Low branches have been trimmed at the main entrance to the modern campground.
- Invasive/non-native species have been removed at the entrance gate and nature center.

Ouabache State Park

- Two new accessible vault toilets and a new comfort station were installed.
- New screens were installed in the windows and doors of the CCC Lodge.
- Invasive wisteria removal is complete in the native plant project area, and wildflowers and shrubs will be planted later this year.
- The park has added tree identification information with QR codes along Trail 3.

Patoka Lake

- Painter Creek SRA has a new courtesy dock. The dock in Newton-Stewart SRA has been improved.
- More than five miles of new pavement is in place on the bike trail.
- Four new accessible vault toilets were installed in Fisherman's Campground.
- More than 46 new trees were planted in the modern campground, replacing dead ash trees.
- The snapping turtle in the nature center has a new, larger tank.
- Invasives removal is underway at Twin Ponds, and a forest habitat improvement project will soon be underway at the Walton Farm.

Pokagon State Park

- Campground 2 has a new comfort station.
- New accessible vault toilets are in place at the nature center playground and at the CCC Shelter.
- There is a new courtesy dock on Lake James for use by overnight guests at Potawatomi Inn.

Potato Creek State Park

- Campground comfort stations have new water heaters and exterior doors.
- The nature center has a new outdoor program area and a replica of an osprey nest in the kids area. The center will be getting a new water feature near the bird viewing window.
- Dump and fill stations were expanded at both the family and horsemen's campgrounds.
- A new accessible vault toilet is in place at Peppermint Hill.
- More than 30 new trees were planted in the campground as a part of the annual program to replace dead ash trees.
- A new bridge provides access to the fish cleaning station.

Prophetstown State Park

- More than 54,000 native trees were planted as part of the governor's ForestIN program; 46,000 more slated to be planted at the park in 2023.
- Pavers were added to all drinking water access pads including those located at picnic shelters.
- New accessible vault toilets are being installed in the campground and at both Prairie View and Meadow View picnic areas.
- Removal of invasive shrubs and trees continued along Trail 1, making way for prairie restoration.
- A new berm between the park and I-65 will provide a sound barrier.
- Wildcat Creek Park is now being managed as a part of Prophetstown with conversion of the site to a small boater's access site along Wildcat Creek.
- The Farm at Prophetstown has a new executive director and a new events coordinator.

Redbird OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)

- Two obstacles have been added near the Power Line Trail.
- Removal of invasive species is underway in the area around the new property office.

Salamonie Lake

- A new accessible fishing pier is in place near the beach.
- Two new accessible vault toilets have been installed in the modern campground.
- A new 8-acre wetland was built in wildlife management unit 25.
- New shower partitions were installed in campground men's comfort stations 1 and 2.

- A new courtesy dock is in place at the Dora SRA boat ramp.
- A new multi-use trail has been opened from the interpretive center to the campground for hiking, walking, and biking.
- A new lending library is available in the modern campground.

Shakamak State Park

- The bathrooms were remodeled in four cabins.
- New stone was added to some campsites in the modern campground.
- A project to add frost-free hydrants to the 400 sites in the campground is continuing.
- Invasive species were removed from approximately 100 acres.

Spring Mill State Park

- New accessible vault toilets were added at Twin Caves, the Lakeview Activity Center, the campground, and Donaldson Picnic Area.
- A new accessible trail has been constructed to Donaldson Cave.
- Accessible doors have been installed in the Grissom Memorial and the Lakeview Activity Center and will be installed at the park office soon.
- The campground has 35 new full-hookup sites with 50-amp service. Three are accessible sites.
- Spring Mill Inn renovation is underway with anticipated reopening in mid-2024.

Starve Hollow SRA

- More overflow parking is now available for the modern campground.
- New accessible vault toilets were installed in the modern campground, near the camper cabins, and near the beach/nature center parking area.
- New stone was added to many campsites.
- Lake treatments are underway to reduce the impact of aquatic vegetation.
- Work is underway to remove the dredge piles along the road to the beach for future recreational use.

Summit Lake State Park

- Tandem kayaks have been added as rental options.
- New stone was placed on campsites to improve slope and pad dimensions.
- The interactive 10k Kayak Story Book trail will be live this summer—watch for more info.
- An accessible fishing pier was installed near the south ramp.

Tippecanoe River State Park

- A new connector trail and bridge were constructed between trails 3 and 5.
- Understory was removed on 20 acres of woods near the horse campground as a part of a savanna restoration project.
- New accessible vault toilets will be installed at the River Tent and Day Horse areas.
- Additional vehicle parking spaces were added at the River Tent/Boat Launch Area.
- Stations were added to create a self-guided discovery trail near the nature center.

Turkey Run State Park/Shades State Park Complex

- Turkey Run and Shades completed multiple trail structure repairs.
- Renovation of 20 cabins and 29 guest rooms at Turkey Run Inn is complete.

- Turkey Run's Olympic pool has a new pool liner and diving board.
- New accessible vault toilets were installed at Turkey Run and Shades.
- Hazardous trees were removed from roadsides, campsites, and picnic areas.
- New exterior siding, fascia, soffit, and gutters were installed at the camp store.
- The entrance and roadway to the guest cabin at the Covered Bridge Retreat have been repaved.

Versailles State Park

- A new pre-cast concrete comfort station was installed in Loop C of the family campground.
- Approximately 30 campground pedestals are being upgraded to 50-amp service and will still offer 30-amp service.
- Crushed stone is being added to enlarge some campsite pads for use during wet weather.
- Construction is underway on the "Potato Peeler", which will add 6 miles to the park's mountain bike trail system. This is funded through the Next Level Trail program.
- The Friends of Versailles State Park developed an interactive "kids corner" in the nature center.