

Arts in the Parks

Summit Lake State Park

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2967.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Summit Lake State Park was established in 1988 as Indiana's 19th state park. The property contains 2,680 acres including an 800 acre lake, a nature preserve generally undisturbed by human activity, and restricted nature areas.
- Cultural History of the Area – In the 1950's, Henry County residents began to talk of a recreational area close to home, and by 1966 the Big Blue River Conservancy District began to make this dream a reality. A dam was finished in 1980 and in 1988 the Big Blue River Recreation Area was sold to the state and renamed Summit Lake State Park, taking its name from being located near the highest elevation in the state.
- Natural beauty – Visitors will find an array of habitats at Summit Lake including wetlands, upland forest, and prairies that have been recently restored. This diverse habitat allows for an abundant array of flora and fauna. Wildlife photographers and bird watchers are especially delighted to find a variety of migratory birds as well as resident species.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Go fishing and catch a variety of fish species including walleye, channel catfish, crappie, bass, and yellow perch.
- Visit Trail 2 for a hike along the shoreline and through restored prairie for excellent bird watching.
- Enjoy a relaxing picnic with spectacular views of the lake.
- Go swimming at the beach.
- Rent a boat and take a quiet paddle exploring remote areas of the lake.

Lodging: Summit Lake has 125 campsites, 4 group camping sites, and a small cabin.

General visitor profile: Day use for picnicking, fishing, beach goers, and hiking; general weekend and week-long campers; occasion school groups during spring and fall; shelter reservations for reunions and weddings; scouts and other groups for volunteer service.

Potential arts venues:

- Harvey Shelter: Open, capacity 150, electricity, bathrooms and picnic area adjacent, view of the lake.
- Sunset Shelter: Open with one end enclosed containing small serving room, capacity 90, electricity, primitive bathroom adjacent, view of the lake.

Nearby Communities: New Castle, Muncie, Pendleton

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

