

**Den Trees** Beech and other trees provide homes and food for squirrels, woodpeckers, raccoons, and other animals.

**Eastern Red Cedars** are common "pioneers" in abandoned fields and grow well in poor soils. Cedars also provide food and shelter for wildlife.



**Rock Shelters** were used by American Indian hunting parties and later as livestock pens by settlers. Notice the animal burrows often found near the base.

**Wildlife Signs** are abundant. Look for tracks, droppings, nests/dens and trails. Many animals are seldom seen because they come out only at night or are secretive.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR**

Join us for scheduled walks and hikes that may last 30 minutes to three hours. These walks are an enjoyable way to see the lake, learn about nature and history, and meet other people.

**INTERPRETER-CONDUCTED WALKS**

A short loop trail begins just across from the Visitors Center's front door. If your time is limited and rock overhangs, ferns and pines sound inviting, try this trail. The trail can be hiked in 30 to 45 minutes but is hilly.

**GARDEN ROCK LOOP TRAIL**

A 2-mile loop trail beginning at the Visitors Center illustrates habitat requirements of wildlife as well as wildlife management techniques used on the property. Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover planting, controlled burning and much more. A booklet keyed to numbered posts is available for this self-guided interpretive trail.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION TRAIL**

A 6.5-mile loop trail begins at the Visitors Center. This is a moderate trail, well maintained but with a small number of signs. Average hiking time is 3 to 4 hours. Many visitors enjoy walking to Totem Rock, a large rock shelter that was used by American Indians and early settlers. "Short cuts" back to the Visitors Center are available for those familiar with maps and hiking. Many of these are marked with location signs designated as A, B, C, D or E.

**MAIN TRAIL**

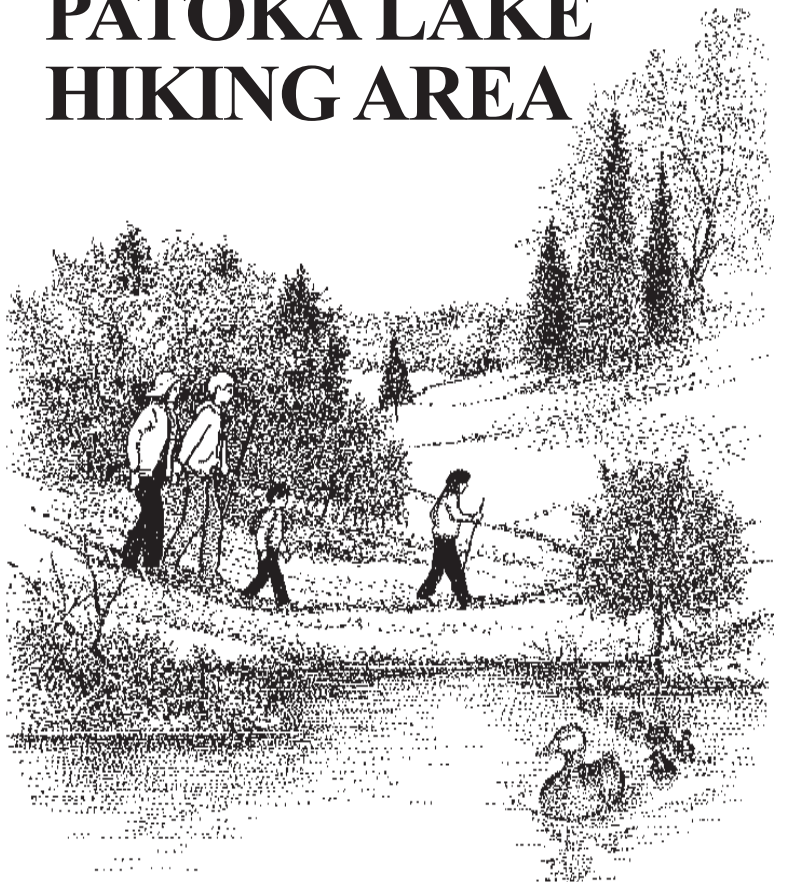
Walking is a great way to see the natural world. Wildflowers, the scent of pines, and the sound of birds are best seen and experienced away from roads. The trails described below offer something for everyone.

**HIKING OPPORTUNITIES**



**DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

*WELCOME TO*  
**PATOKA LAKE**  
**HIKING AREA**



The hiking area contains approximately 1,000 acres on a peninsula north of the Visitors Center-Fisherman's Campground road. This area was set aside to provide visitors an opportunity to explore on foot a large roadless tract of southern Indiana uplands. Hikers can spend an hour or a day exploring mature beech-maple and oak-hickory forest, rock shelters and outcroppings, pine plantations, abandoned farm fields in various stages of plant succession, and panoramic views of the lake. Bird watchers will find the diverse area supports many native species, while the quiet hiker or photographer may stalk deer, small mammals or even coyotes.

The map inside shows the route of the area as three trails. Other features of interest are also shown, including access lanes and an overlook. Hiking trails are shown as dashed lines. Because the trail connects points of interest along the ridge top to the lake shore, it is rugged and steep in places.

A limited number of signs have been placed along the trail. Should you become unsure of your location, remember there is one main ridge with a few short spurs; walking uphill will eventually bring you to the ridge on which the Visitor Center is located.

Before the lake was constructed this area was part of various farms. The only "litter" in the area before the opening of the property was an occasional Mason jar or tractor part near old home sites. Please help us maintain the area by "never letting it be said, to your shame, that this place was more beautiful before you came."

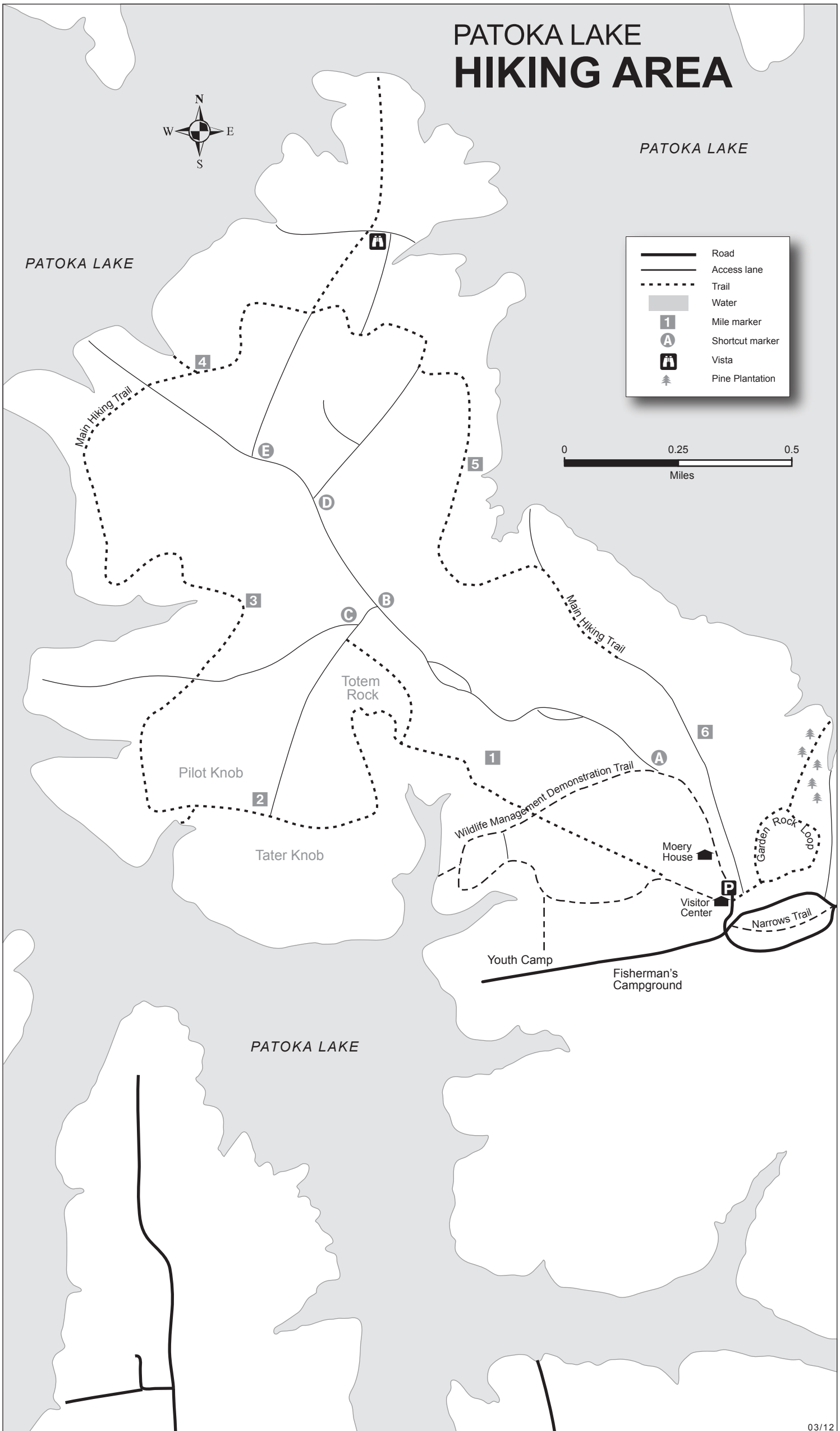
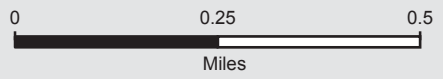
# PATOKA LAKE HIKING AREA



PATOKA LAKE

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	Road
	Access lane
	Trail
	Water
	Mile marker
	Shortcut marker
	Vista
	Pine Plantation



PATOKA LAKE