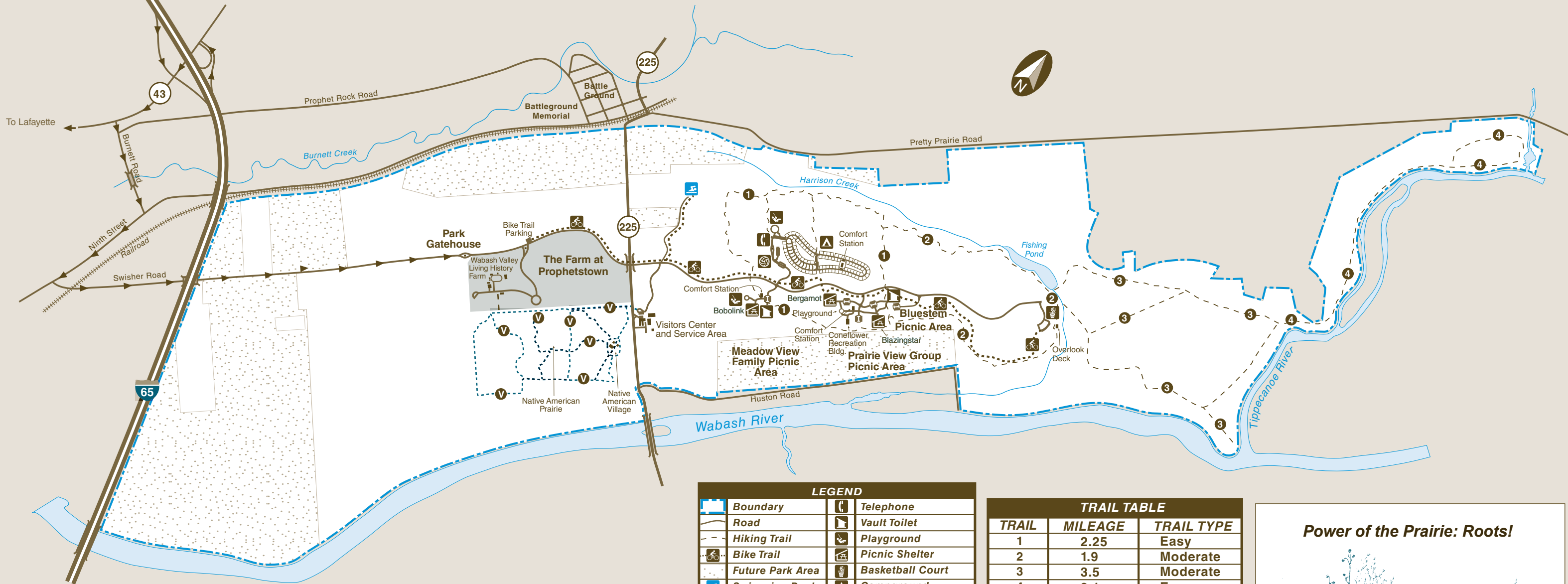


PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

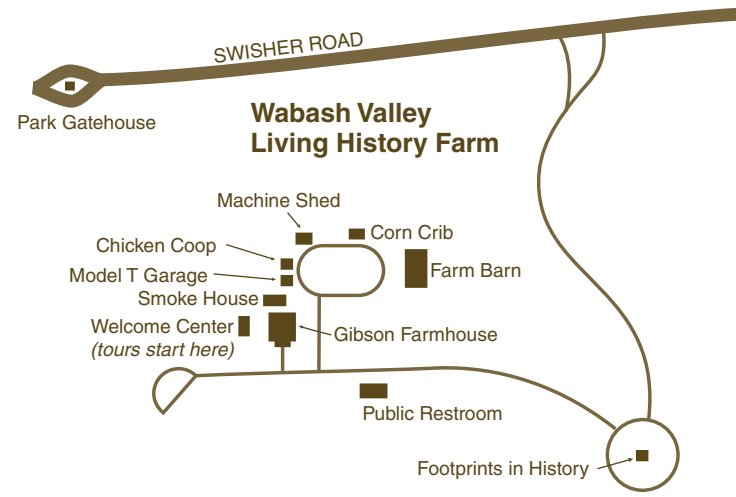
4112 E. State Road 225 • West Lafayette, IN 47906 • (765) 567-4919
Established 2004



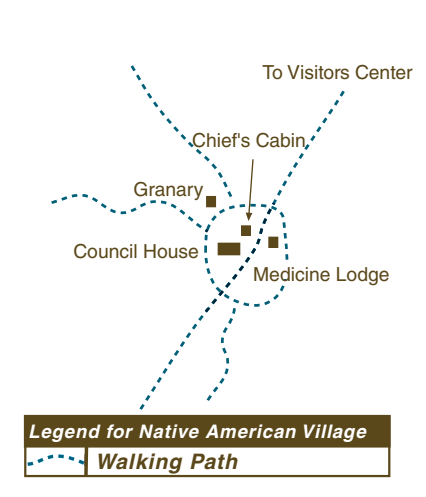
LEGEND	
	Boundary
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Bike Trail
	Future Park Area
	Swimming Pool
	Telephone
	Vault Toilet
	Playground
	Picnic Shelter
	Basketball Court
	Campground
	Sports Field

TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2.25	Easy
2	1.9	Moderate
3	3.5	Moderate
4	2.1	Easy
Village		Easy

The Farm at Prophetstown



Native American Village



Printed on Recycled Paper

RECYCLE
Place used beverage cans in the park's marked recycling containers. Thank you.

CARRY IN CARRY OUT
Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.

The only entrance to the park is from Swisher Road.



LOCATION MAP

Power of the Prairie: Roots!



Did you know that approximately 70% of the average prairie plant is roots? The leaves, stems and flowers account for only about a third of the total living matter. Some prairie plants are known to have roots that exceed twenty feet deep!

Power of the Prairie: Roots! is a reprint from the Prairie Nursery Publication.

the ample groundwater supply below.

In addition, a gravel and soil “dam” holding back glacial Lake Maumee north of what is now Fort Wayne may have burst. Water cascaded southwest, impacting the flow and direction of the Wabash River and further carving the landscape. The Tippecanoe River meets the Wabash just upstream from the state park, creating a seasonal wetland that is now an attractive stopping place for shorebirds and waterfowl.

A unique glacial feature of the park is the presence of fens. A fen is created when groundwater rich in calcium seeps from a slope and runs downhill. Fens are characterized by the growth of grasses, sedges and wildflowers, some of them rare.

Rich soil formed over the glacial deposits. The climate was right for the development of vast prairies. Hundreds of species of wildflowers flourished among the grasses. Plants dried quickly each season, and fire, generally caused by lightning, released nutrients stored in the massive quantity of flower and grass stems.

The Native Americans learned to use fire to maintain the prairie landscape for hunting. European settlers discovered the rich soil’s capacity for growing corn and wheat. Today, the region is part of “America’s breadbasket.” Original remnants of the tallgrass prairie are found only in cemeteries and along railroad tracks, where soil was left unturned.

Restoring the prairie is a vital part of the mission at Prophetstown. Each year, a few more acres of soil are replanted with a vast array of native grasses and wildflowers. Many of the wildflowers start in the greenhouses located at the park office. Eventually, up to two-thirds of the park will resemble the landscape seen by our ancestors. We also are removing non-native trees and replanting oaks and other species that were found along river bluffs and in the open woodlands, often called savannahs.



The Farm at Prophetstown is a non-profit organization that, in a unique partnership with DNR, operates a sustainable, small-scale working farm powered by draft horses. Visitors can step back in time to fully appreciate this important part of Indiana history.

The Farm at Prophetstown, Inc.
3549 Prophetstown Trail, P.O. Box 331
Battle Ground, IN 47920-0331
Call: (765) 567-4700

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BIKE/HIKING TRAIL—The 12-foot-wide asphalt trail is 3.2 miles long and will eventually extend more than 5.2 miles, the entire length of the park.

CAMPING—The first portion of the family campground provides 110 sites, 55 with full electric, sewer and water hookups at each site. The campground has a large comfort station with modern restrooms and shower facilities, including a family restroom. The campground has one-way asphalt roads and fine stone spurs and living areas. All sites are accessible and reservable. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Make reservations at camp.IN.gov or call 1-866-6campIN.

HIKING—There are more than 4 miles of hiking trails from easy to moderate.

PICNIC AREAS—**Prairie View** group picnic area has two large picnic shelters, a recreation building and modern restrooms. Each shelter has picnic tables and one large outside grill. Paved walks connect all picnic shelters, parking lots, restrooms and a large accessible playground. A paved bike/hiking trail connects the Prairie View group picnic area with other areas of the park. The Prairie View group picnic area is reservable. Parking is available for 120 vehicles.

Meadow View family picnic area has a shelter with tables, modern restrooms, an accessible playground and large outdoor grill. The Meadow View family picnic area connects with the bike trail and is reservable. Parking is available for 40 vehicles.

Bluestem picnic area is on the prairie, with picnic tables, grills and parking for 14 vehicles.

SHELTERS AND RECREATION BUILDING—Reservations are available at camp.IN.gov or by calling 1-866-6campIN. Shelters available are Bobolink, Bergamot, Blazingstar. Recreation building available is Coneflower.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public’s use and enjoyment.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups are permitted in the family campground.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Pull off roads while observing wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. EASY (2.25 miles)—Starts at the Meadow View family picnic parking lot and winds through a former Christmas tree plantation of Douglas Fir and then snakes its way through tallgrass prairie, adjacent to the Prairie View group picnic area, with big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem, side oats grama, and black-eyed Susan. The trail continues into a fen and meanders through this marshy area, where you may get your feet wet, before entering a field being invaded by osage orange, wild cherry, mulberry, and multiflora rose. The trail ends at the Meadow View family picnic area parking lot.
2. MODERATE (1.9 miles)—Begins on Trail 1, north of the Blazingstar picnic shelter in the Prairie View

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Online: camp.IN.gov
Call: 1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Reservations: 1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)
Online: IndianalInns.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Prophetstown State Park
4112 E. State Road 225
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Call: (765) 567-4919
Online: dnr.IN.gov
Map Address: 5545 Swisher Rd
West Lafayette, IN 47906

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

group picnic area. The trail meanders through the tallgrass prairie before entering a shaded path along scenic Harrison Creek. Spring and summer wildflowers treat hikers to a stunning display of color as the trail winds through a mixed deciduous forest, past a pond formed by Harrison Creek, and into the fen. The trail continues through a mature sycamore grove before merging with Trail 1 at the fen boardwalk north of the campground.

3. MODERATE (3.5 miles) – Begins off of trail 2 near the east end of the pond and follows a gravel road eventually leading to the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers where the trail becomes a dirt path. Before reaching the rivers while walking through a large, floodplain prairie, a visitor will observe large wetland restoration projects, a large bottomland forest replacement tree planting, and a river bank stabilization project along the Wabash River that were a joint effort between the DNR and INDOT. The trail will then lead along the Tippecanoe River, cross a bottomland prairie and will lead hikers to a contour trail providing stunning overlooks of perched fens formed by many hillside seeps. The trail will end near the starting point of the trail just uphill from the north end of the pond. Note, this trail will be closed during flood events.
4. EASY (2.1 miles) – Begins at trail 3 near the Tippecanoe River and meanders through a heavily shaded floodplain forest following the river until entering into a floodplain prairie. The trail will lead hikers to the furthest northern boundary of the park where it will return upon the same path back to the trail 3. Note, this trail will be closed during flood events.

Bike/Hiking EASY (3.5 miles)—This initial paved section starts near the park gatehouse and connects all the current facilities at the state park. The trailhead parking lot can accommodate 20 vehicles. The Meadow View family picnic parking lot serves as another trailhead, providing a modern restroom, water and picnic shelter.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding wildlife is prohibited and can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK



Prophetstown State Park sits at the edge of a tallgrass prairie that greeted Native Americans and European settlers who first lived in what is now northwestern Indiana.

A vast sea of tallgrass stretched as far as the eye could see. Small, open oak woodlands dotted the prairie landscape. Steep, narrow bluffs dropped to connecting rivers.

Over time, the land has been shaped by ice, water, fire and human hands.

The glaciers made their mark first. Vast quantities of ice moved slowly across this place at least three times, carving the land into gently rolling topography. As the ice receded, rocks carried from the northern part of our continent were left behind. These range in size from large boulders called glacial erratics to the abundant gravel and sand deposits mined commercially today.

As the ice melted, river channels and streams formed, some of which were on the surface; some of which formed the basis for