

**Please let wild animals remain wild.** Feeding wild-  
life is prohibited and can result in harm to both ani-  
mals 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.

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 green-  
houses 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 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.

Rich soil formed over the glacial deposits. The cli-  
mate 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.

streams formed, some of which were on the surface;  
some of which formed the basis for the ample ground-  
water 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, impact-  
ing 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.

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 connect-  
ing 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 com-  
mercially today.

As the ice melted, river channels and

**DNR** Indiana Department of Natural Resources



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

- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- Pull off roads while observing wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash pol-  
icy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put  
waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth  
groups are permitted in the family campground.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the  
Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and  
kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Any firearm (except validly licensed handguns) BB  
gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, 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 the owner is participating in an  
activity authorized by written permit.
- 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.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Historic Prophetstown** is a non-profit organi-  
zation that, in a unique partnership with DNR,  
has recreated a Native American village, and  
restored prairie and a 1920s-era living history  
farm on 247 acres within the state park. Visitors  
can step back in time to fully appreciate this  
important part of Indiana history.

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

**THIS IS YOUR PARK**

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

**CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM**

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

**camp.IN.gov**  
**1-866-6campIN**  
(1-866-622-6746)



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

**IndianalInns.com**  
**1-877-lodges1**  
(1-877-563-4371)



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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**



**Write:** Prophetstown State Park  
4112 E. State Road 225  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
**Call:** (765) 567-4919



Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
**dnr.IN.gov**

**SPECIAL NOTE**

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help  
defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of  
fees available in the park 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 dis-  
criminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described  
above, or if you desire further information please write to: Depart-  
ment of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington  
St., W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

11/6/2009

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS**

**BIKE / HIKING TRAIL** (3.2 miles)—EASY: This initial  
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.

**MODERATE** (1.9 miles)—Begins on Trail 1, north  
of the Blazingstar picnic shelter in the Prairie View  
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.

**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,  
muberry, and multiflora rose. The trail ends at the  
Meadow View family picnic area parking lot.

**DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS**

**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 camp-  
ground 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 consecu-  
tive nights. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](http://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 con-  
nects 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.

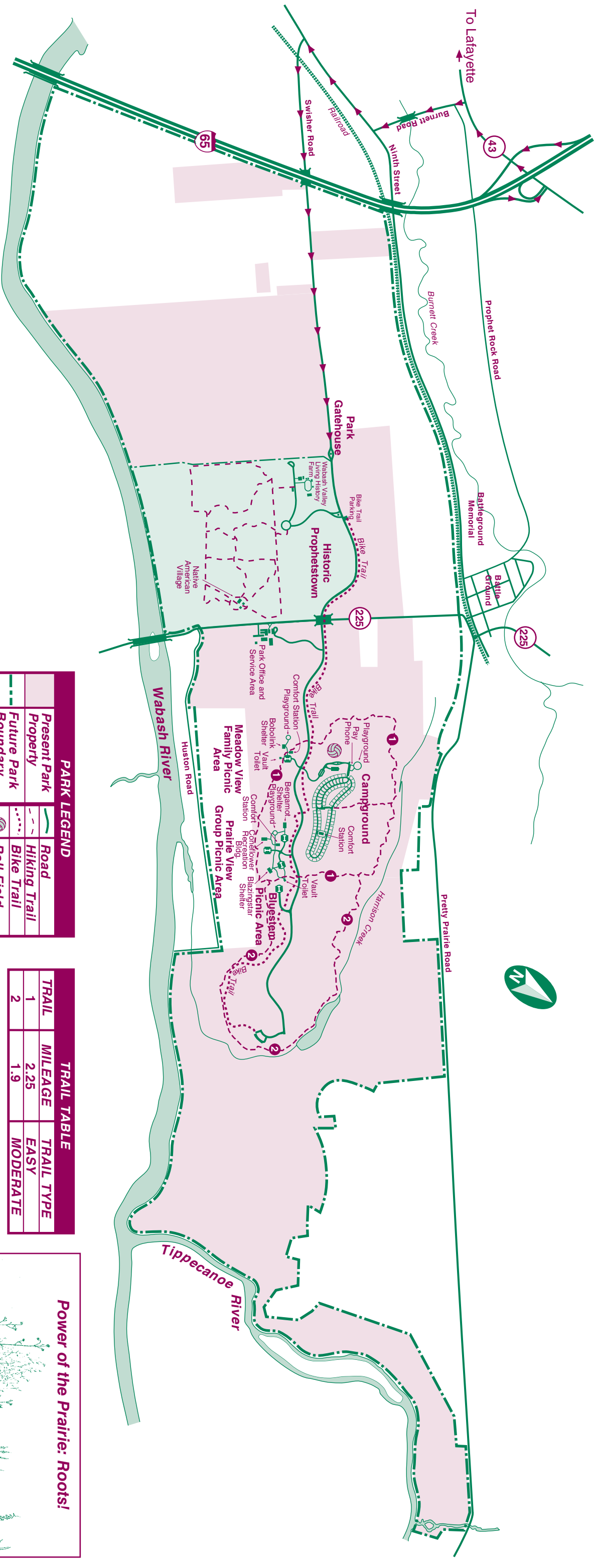
MEADOW VIEW *family* picnic area has a shelter  
with tables, modern restrooms, an accessible play-  
ground and large outdoor grill. The Meadow View  
family picnic area connects with the bike trail and is  
reservable. Parking is available for 40 vehicles.

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

**SHELTERS AND RECREATION BUILDING**—Res-  
ervations are available at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) or by calling  
1-866-6campIN. Shelters available are Bobolink,  
Bergamot, Blazingstar. Recreation building available  
is Coneflower.

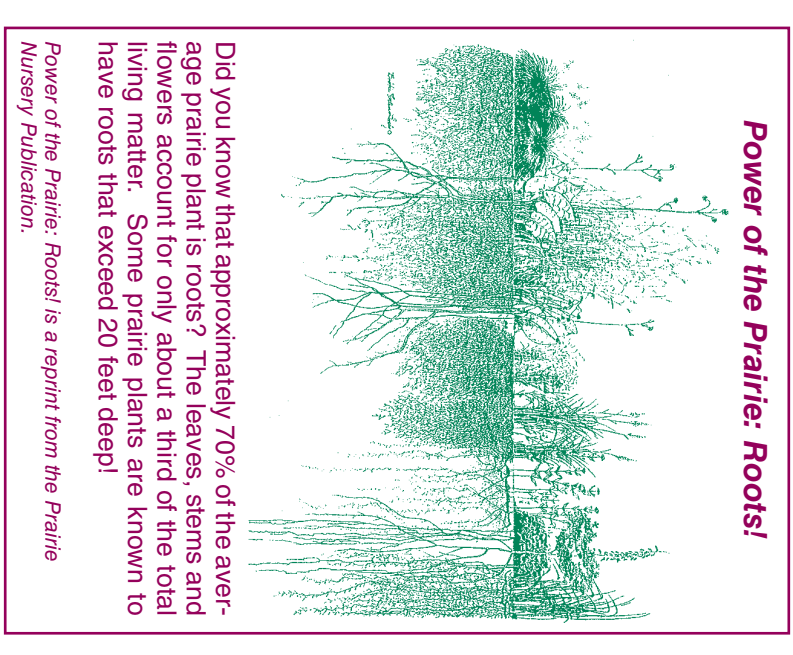
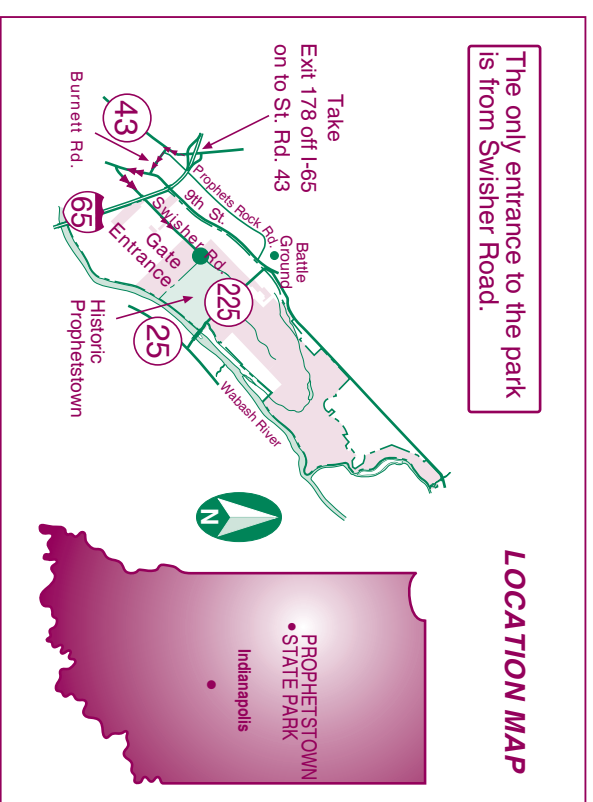
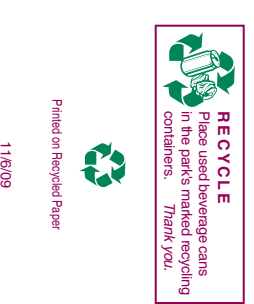
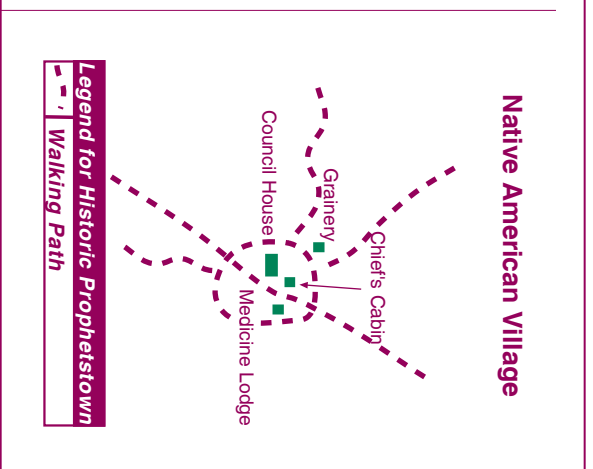
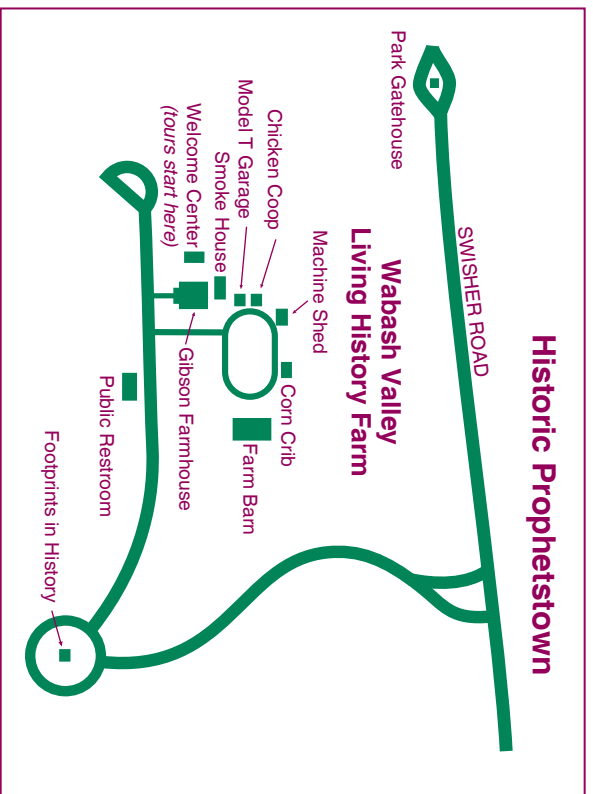
# PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

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



PARK LEGEND	
	Road
	Present Park Property
	Future Park Property
	Boundary
	Hiking Trail
	Bike Trail
	Ball Field

TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2.25	EASY
2	1.9	MODERATE



**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 20 feet deep!  
*Power of the Prairie: Roots! is a reprint from the Prairie Nursery Publication.*