

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

(219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey

Office Manager: Leslie Allen



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Ellen Kapitan

Paul Brooks

Sam Hayes



Katydid

August Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, July 25

10am Woodland Wander. Join us for a mid-summer morning stroll through the dune forests. We'll explore the sights and sounds on this 45-minute, easy walk. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. EK

3pm Wee Beasties at High Power! Join the naturalist in the (air conditioned!) Nature Center for a fun look at some of the smallest parts of nature. We'll bring the high power microscopes out for close up looks at some amazing pieces of nature! Great program for the kids! EK

Tuesday, July 26

10am Dune Lion Hunt! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a lion hunt of sorts! We'll be hiking into the high dunes in search of the elusive ant lion. Join us! PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Nature Crafts! Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for some nature craft fun. Meet Ellen to find out what special project we're working on today! Come on out! EK

Wednesday July 27

9:30am Late Summer Birds. Between migration can be a good time to learn some of our summer bird sounds. Take a short stroll this morning as we seek out our feathered summer residents. Bring binoculars, or share one of ours. Meet at the Campground Gate. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Squirrels Gone Wild! Squirrels are people pleasers! Check out the wild diversity of the Indiana Dunes squirrels this afternoon at the Nature Center. Afterwards, we'll play a little squirrel game for a chance to win some candy! Bring the kids! BB



Thursday, July 28

10am Wetland Discovery. Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Musical Sounds of Nature! Test your critter sound this afternoon in the (air conditioned!) Nature Center. We'll play a little game looking at the noisy mammals, birds, insects and more that you're hearing in the park right now. PB

Friday, July 29

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. PB

3pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! EK

7:30pm Sunset from Mt. Tom! Finish off a great day in the dunes with a hike to view the greatest sunset in Indiana, on top of the highest sand dune... Mt. Tom. We'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for a moderate hike up trail 4. Join us for a spectacular view. PB

Saturday, July 30

10am Dunes Forest Discovery. Check out the large and small in our amazing dune forests this morning. Join Paul for an investigative discovery of all things wonderful in our forests. Meet at Campground Gate for this hour, easy stroll. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. PB

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! EK

8pm Who's Tracking up Your Campsite!? Come on over to the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for some evening fun looking at the critters traversing the campground. We'll also make our own tracking field guide you can take back to the site with you. Great fun for the entire family! EK

Sunday, July 31

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am One Hummer of a Bird! Meet the park interpreter in the Nature Center Auditorium for an up-close look at these amazing tiny birds! We'll test your hummer IQ, and then we'll walk outside to see how close we can get them to come to us. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. EK

3pm Scatology! Meet at the Nature Center to get the scoop on the poop of the dunes. Test your knowledge and win prizes for knowing your scat, feces, and turds! It's a fun time with the naturalist! Plop on by this afternoon! EK



Monday, August 1

9:30am Indiana's Greatest Hike! Join the park naturalist for a grand two-hour tour to what was voted the greatest hike in Indiana by USA Today. We'll traverse amazing dune parabolic blowouts, forested dunes, and foredune grasslands along the way. Pack a water bottle, strap on your hiking boots, and join us at the Nature Center this morning! SH

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Sunshine Necklaces! Meet at the Nature Center Front Deck for a make-it and take-it craft before you leave! We'll explore the sun's effects on the land and make a special UV bead necklace you can take home with you. Great fun for the kids! EK

Tuesday, August 2

Dunes Nature Summer Camp Tuesday-Thursday this week! Call the Nature Center for more info or to sign up!

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Snakes Alive! Slither on over to the Nature Center for a fun investigation of the snakes of Indiana Dunes! We'll also examine the myths that surround these interesting reptiles. A good program, especially if you are uncomfortable around them. Join us! BB

Wednesday, August 3

10am A Dog Day Hike. We're in the dog days of summer. Bring your dog and join us for a spectacular canine stroll through the forests of trail 2. Definitely no cats allowed! Meet at the Campground Gate for this hour walk. PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. EK

3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC. Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. EK

Thursday, August 4

10am Mt. Tom Bound. Explore the high dunes this morning as we trek to the highest dune in Indiana. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. PB

3pm A Rattlesnake Rap! Slither into the Nature Center for a fun and educational look at the venomous and non-venomous snakes of the Indiana Dunes. Can you tell if it will hurt you? Come by and find out! PB

Friday, August 5

10am Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt! Bring a digital camera (and cable or sd card) and take a shot at some prizes for finding some hidden spots near the Nature Center. We'll start in the Nature Center Auditorium to explain things and get the competition going! Join us! PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. PB

3pm Dune Jeopardy! Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. PB

Saturday, August 6

10am Dunes History Hike. Did you know the dunes have Civil War history? How about maritime disasters? Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for a dunes jaunt exploring our unique history. Hike will end at the Beach Pavilion. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. BB

3pm Amazing Dunes Race! Team up with Paul or Ellen for a special race of sorts throughout the park for a special prize! Meet at the Nature Center to get started! PB/EK

8pm A Campfire Tonight! Join the Naturalists for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 113). Kids, please bring a parent if you are under 12. Bring marshmallows for roasting afterwards. Join us! BB/EK/PB



Sunday, August 7

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am A Woodpecker Wander! Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll in search of the woodpeckers that call Indiana Dunes home. Great way to end a weekend in the dunes! EK

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, July 25, for more details. PB

3pm Reptile Review! Check out the assorted reptiles that thrive in the dunes environment! We'll have many live ones on hand to show off up close! Come to the Nature Center for this family fun hour! PB

Monday, August 8

10am Succession Stroll. Meet Ellen at the Beach Pavilion for a morning jaunt on Trail 3. We'll explore the amazing changes in plants and animals as you move away from the lake. We'll be back before the beach opens for swimming. EK

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. EK

3pm Sand Art! Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for some sand art fun. Explore sand from around the world, and make your own sand art craft to take home! Great fun for the kids! EK

Tuesday, August 9

10am Dune Lion Hunt! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a lion hunt of sorts! We'll be hiking into the high dunes in search of the elusive ant lion. Join us! PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. EK

3pm Tree ID Spree! Join us for a special talk and short walk looking at the science of tree ID. We'll also explore the great uses our trees have. Perfect for those doing leaf collections later this fall season. Join us! EK

Wednesday August 10

10am Beautiful Blowout. Meet the naturalist outside the Nature Center for a fresh air walk into the nearby Beach House Blowout. We'll explore the life that occurs there on this 1 hour, moderate hike, before turning back. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. BB

3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC. Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. PB

Thursday, August 11

10am Woodland Wander. Join us for a mid-summer morning stroll through the dunes forests. We'll explore the sights and sounds on this 45-minute, easy walk. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm Dune Jeopardy! Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. PB

Friday, August 12

10am Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. PB

10am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm Wetland Discovery. Enjoy a afternoon discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. EK

7:30pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over while setting up camp for some nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! EK

Saturday, August 13

10am Cactus Crawl! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Trail 3 in the park. Enjoy this lesser traveled trail as we seek out our oddball cacti in the dunes. We'll be back before the beach opens for swimming. Meet at the Beach Pavilion. EK

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. BB

4pm Summer Stargazing! Visit the (air-conditioned) Nature Center this afternoon for a day-time look at the summer night sky. Guaranteed no clouds! Join us in the Nature Center auditorium. BB

8:30pm-Dawn 5th Annual Perseid Meteor Stargaze! Join us for our annual shooting star event! Tonight marks the near peak of the Persied Meteor show. Up to 60 shooting stars an hour can be seen. We'll have special constellation talks and sky storytelling going on throughout the evening. Bring a lawnchair or blanket and join us at the Beach Pavilion. Join us!



Sunday, August 14

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!?! Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! EK

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. BB

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have!?! EK

Monday, August 15

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Join us for an up-close look at the amazing birds of the Indiana Dunes. Through bird banding, we'll have live birds in the hand for great looks. Meet at the Nature Center. Join us! BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. BB

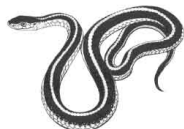
3pm Wee Beasties at High Power! Join the naturalist in the (air conditioned!) Nature Center for a fun look at some of the smallest parts of nature. We'll bring the high power microscopes out for close up looks at some amazing pieces of nature! Great program for the kids.! EK

Tuesday, August 16

10am A Dog Day Hike. We're in the dog days of summer. Bring your dog and join us for a spectacular canine stroll through the forests of trail 2. Definitely no cats allowed! Meet at the Campground Gate for this hour walk. EK

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm Snakes Alive! Slither on over to the Nature Center for a fun investigation of the snakes of Indiana Dunes! We'll also examine the myths that surround these interesting reptiles. A good program, especially if you are uncomfortable around them. Join us! PB



Wednesday, August 17

10am Wetland Discovery. Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. EK

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

1pm-5pm A Green Fire Event! Help celebrate the life and times of one of America's greatest ecologists Aldo Leopold today! This special day features a state premiere showing of the documentary that showcases this legendary conservationist and how his work influenced the environmental movement of today. The event takes place at the Indiana Dunes Tourism Visitor Center on SR 49 and US 20 outside the park. A marketplace of environmental groups will be on hand before the actual film showing at 3pm. The director, Curt Meine, will also be on hand to answer questions. Come on out and join us!

Thursday, August 18

10am Dunes Creek Restoration Tour. You may notice the construction going on now at the main beach parking lot. Meet the interpreter at the Campground Gate for a 45-minute tour of some of the creek restoration, or "daylighting," that is occurring here this year. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. BB

3pm Owl Puke 101. Flock to the Nature Center for an up close look at the owls of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards dissect your own owl pellet! Great kid's program. Join us! PB

8pm Owl Prowl! What predators stir the night air!? Find out with the naturalist this evening. We'll meet outside the Nature Center for an evening adventure in the woods in search of our winged predators of the night. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. PB

Friday, August 19

10am A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm Squirrels Gone Wild! Squirrels are people pleasers! Check out the wild diversity of the Indiana Dunes squirrels this afternoon at the Nature Center. Afterwards, we'll play a little squirrel game for a chance to win some candy! Bring the kids! PB

Saturday, August 20

10am Woodland Wander. Join the naturalist for a late summer stroll into the duneland woods. We'll explore how life goes on in this summer beauty. Join us for this hour hike at the Nature Center. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm The Green Fire! Help celebrate the life and times of one of America's greatest ecologists Aldo Leopold today! We'll be showing the new documentary that showcases this legendary conservationist and how his work influenced the environmental movement of today. The showing takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Sunday, August 21

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See Monday, August 8, for more details. PB

3pm The Green Fire! Help celebrate the life and times of one of America's greatest ecologists Aldo Leopold today! We'll be showing the new documentary that showcases this legendary conservationist and how his work influenced the environmental movement of today. The showing takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Monday, August 22

10am Techno-Scavenger Hunt. Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno twist! We'll explore the use of GPS and geocaching, while learning to find your own geocache. Meet outside the Nature Center. Prizes for the kids! Join us! BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks.

Tuesday, August 23

10am A Woodland Wander. Let's explore the back dunes forest this morning. Meet at the Nature Center for an easy, 45-minute stroll to Wilson Shelter and back. We'll explore the sights and sounds of the forest and swamp. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

3pm Critter Feeding Time! Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for our weekly feeding of the turtles, snakes, frogs, and more! Learn about their special diets and maybe even help feed them yourselves! Great kid's program. JS

Wednesday August 24

10am Silent Forests on the First Day of School! Its official, our local kids are back in school. Enjoy a peaceful stroll through the dunes woodlands this morning. We'll explore the silent history that makes the dunes so amazing. Meet outside the Nature Center. JS

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

3pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! PB

Thursday, August 25

10am Dune Hiking! Explore the high dunes this morning. We'll meet at the Nature Center and head for some of the highest sand dunes in Indiana. Come for outstanding views! Join us! PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

3pm Musical Sounds of Nature! Test your critter sound this afternoon in the (air conditioned!) Nature Center. We'll play a little game looking at the noisy mammals, birds, insects and more that you're hearing in the park right now. PB

Friday, August 26

10am A Dog Day Hike. We're in the dog days of summer. Bring your dog and join us for a spectacular canine stroll through the forests of trail 2. Meet at the Campground Gate for this hour walk. PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC. Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. PB

Saturday, August 27

10am Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt! Bring a digital camera (and cable or sd card) and take a shot at some prizes for finding some hidden spots near the Nature Center. We'll start in the Nature Center Auditorium to explain things and get the competition going! Join us! PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

3pm Snakes Alive Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for look at the snakes that live in the dunes. A good program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Slither on in and join us! PB



Sunday, August 28

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Early Autumn Birds. Meet the Park Interpreter at the Campground Gate for an easy stroll in search of the dune birds that are already preparing for their fall migration. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

2pm Nature Crafts! Come on by the Nature Center for a special make-it and take-it program. We'll meet outside the Nature Center. Great activity before you head home! Join us! PB

Monday, August 29

10am Wetland Wander. Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. PB

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

Tuesday, August 30

10am Dunes History Hike. Did you know the dunes has Civil War history? How about maritime disasters? Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for an hour dunes jaunt exploring our unique history. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

Wednesday, August 31

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for up close and amazing looks at our local birds. We'll explore the science of bird banding and show off some birds in the hand. Join us! BB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

Thursday, September 1

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks.

Friday, September 2

10am Mt. Tom Bound. Explore the high dunes this morning as we trek to the highest dune in Indiana. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

3pm Shipwreck Tragedy! Gather in the Nature Auditorium for this interactive program exploring the dunes tragedy of the JD Marshall shipwreck. Great program for the entire family! BB

7pm Labor Day Weekend Crafts! Send the kids over after checking in for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite this holiday weekend. It's sure to be a fun time! BB

Saturday, September 3

9:30am Indiana's Greatest Hike! Join guest naturalist Jenna for a grand two-hour tour to what was voted the greatest hike in Indiana by USA Today. We'll traverse amazing dune parabolic blowouts, forested dunes, and foredune grasslands along the way. Pack a water bottle, strap on your hiking boots, and join us at the Nature Center this morning! JS

1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

3pm Cattail Twining! It's a short, crafty program meeting out at the Nature Center Program Area. Join us for a different look at one of our important wetland plants and take home some cattail twine or a bracelet! BB

6:30pm Pavilion Sunset History Tour! Meet the park interpreter for a view of Indiana's best sunset! We'll meet in front of the beach pavilion for a look at this unique Indiana icon, a special tour, and then we'll head to the top for a great sunset! It's a one of a kind way to enjoy an evening on the beach! BB

Sunday, September 4

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Fall Birding! Meet members of the Indiana Audubon Society for a morning of early fall birding. We'll start at the Nature Center and search out the early migrating warblers and vireos. We'll be out for an hour or a little more.

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. BB

1-4pm An Afternoon for the Birds! Join us as we team up with the Indiana Audubon's Youth Birding Club to offer an afternoon of birding fun. We'll be offering special bird activities, bird crafts, and even live bird banding for kids of all ages to enjoy. Check the Nature Center for the full list and agenda of activities going on!

6:30pm Sunset from Mt. Tom! Finish off a great day in the dunes with a hike to view the greatest sunset in Indiana, on top of the highest sand dune... Mt. Tom. We'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for a moderate hike up trail 4. Join us for a spectacular view. PB

Monday, September 5

Happy Labor Day!

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. PB

11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program. See, Monday, August 22, for more details. PB

3pm Labor Day Crafts It's a make it, take it program! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for a special nature project to remember your Labor Day visit to Indiana Dunes State Park. Bring the kids before you pack up and head home! PB

