

Camping – A Favorite Activity

Salamonie River offers 21 sites for camping in the primitive campground. A 15 site Horsemen's primitive campground with hitching rails on each site is available for those camping with horses.

All campers must register upon arrival to the forest. Self-check-in stations are located at the entrance to each campground. Information on camping rates is posted in these stations.

Relax and Go Fishing

Salamonie River State Forest provides the opportunity to throw a few casts for largemouth bass or panfish. Fishing is available in Hominy Ridge Lake, which contains largemouth bass, bluegill, red-ear and catfish. Fishing is allowed from the shore and from boats on the lake. A boat ramp is available on the east side of the lake; boat motors are restricted to electric motors only.

The forest also provides access to the Salamonie River, which offers opportunities to catch largemouth bass, bluegill, red-ear, catfish, smallmouth bass and walleye.

Picnicking, Hiking, etc.

Close to Hominy Ridge Lake is a spacious shelter house which contains deep ovens and two fireplaces. Picnic tables are scattered throughout the area and a playground is provided for younger visitors. A cascading waterfall is just a short hike from the shelter house. The 3 Falls Trail near the primitive campground is a 0.33 mile trail leading to an area with three waterfalls in very close proximity to each other. Hiking can also be done on any of the 9 miles of fire trails located throughout the forest. When out on the trails, watch for the forest's furry and feathered residents: deer, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and many species of birds, including wild turkey. Some of the more elusive forest residents include fox, coyote, and bobcats. The large population of small game and deer in the forest make hunting a popular sport on the property. Hikers and horseback riders are advised to wear hunter orange or other bright clothing while on the trails during hunting season in late fall. In winter months, cross country skiers often visit the area to take advantage of the forest's extensive trail system.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riders can enjoy approximately 15 miles of wooded trails that offer views of waterfalls, rocky gorges, and flowing rivers and streams.

Please stay on marked Trails and respect the rules. These trails are for everyone to enjoy and will be monitored for compliance.

Rules and Etiquette for Horseback Riders

- Day riders should park in the gravel parking lot at the end of the horsemen's camp. Overnight camping is not allowed in the day-use area.
- One horse trailer per campsite.
- In the horsemen's campground, horses should be tied to hitching rails or horse trailers ONLY; do not tie horses to trees.
- The owners of unruly animals, which are causing a disturbance or safety hazard may be asked to remove such animals from the property without refund.
- For the safety of horseback riders and motorists, horses are not allowed on roadways except to cross from one trail to another.
- Horses are not permitted in the primitive campground, picnic area, or in the forest office/service area.
- Please be courteous to other horseback riders and hikers while using the forest trails.
- The owner of any animal brought onto the state forest shall be responsible for:
 - Providing proof of any vaccinations and animal health certificates as required by law
 - The humane treatment of all animals
 - The procurement and payment for any veterinary services
 - The payment of any expense involved in the removal of injured or dead animals

Caution! Horseback riders must not leave the trails or disturb sensitive plant communities. Creating short cuts or unauthorized trails will result in legal action.

Property Regulations

It is patron's responsibility to know and obey all state property regulations.

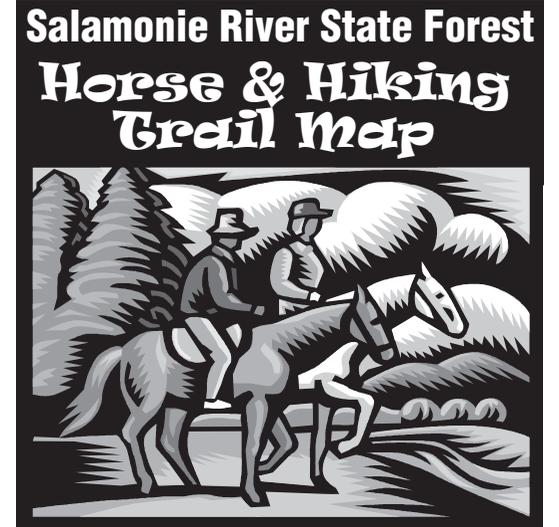
- Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- All pets must be kept on a leash and attended at all times
- Fireworks are prohibited at all times
- Shooting bows and firearms in campgrounds, picnic areas and service area is strictly prohibited
- It is illegal to possess a loaded firearm in a designated safety zone
- Swimming is not allowed in Hominy Ridge Lake or the Salamonie River
- Vehicle use is restricted to roadways. Off-road vehicles and snowmobiles are not allowed on the forest's trail system.

Timber Management

In addition to its recreation facilities, Salamonie River State Forest manages its property for timber, wildlife, and watershed protection. A walnut plantation on the property was planted in 1963 in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the American Walnut Manufacturers Association. This plantation was established to test various seed sources and how well the seeds grew in Indiana soil and climate. The six acre plot is maintained by the state forest staff and the statistics and measurements are recorded annually. Two other hardwood plantations (red oak and white oak) were established in 1983 to provide quality trees in a shorter period of time through intensive timber management.

Sensitive Plant Communities

The sensitive areas of Salamonie State Forest, where not disturbed, contain high quality natural communities that are of state significance and are unique for northern Indiana. These communities, with their high diversity of plants, as well as the occurrence of species of state rarity and those on the edge of their range, combine to form an area worthy of protection. The protection of these areas is a primary management concern.



Salamonie River State Forest is a beautiful place to visit for a day of camping, fishing, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding or just plain old fashioned rest and relaxation. The state forest is located about 8 miles east of Wabash and is accessible by taking U.S. 24 to Lagro and proceeding south on state road 524. Both the forest and Salamonie River got their names from the Native American word "O-sah-mo-nee," which means "yellow paint". Native Americans made yellow paint from the bloodroot plant which grew in great abundance along the winding banks of the river.

Salamonie River State Forest is managed to demonstrate the successful reclamation of eroded land. The state forest was established in the mid 1930's when local people assisted the state in purchasing the hilly land and bluffs along the Salamonie River. Most of the land's topsoil was eroded away, making reclamation of the area a major challenge. To deal with this challenge, a 200-member Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was created. The CCC designed and planned the forest and recreation facilities and opened a stone quarry. Several hundred acres of land were reforested and many recreation facilities were built, including Hominy Ridge Lake and the large stone shelter house that stands near the lake. Since then, Indiana Heritage Trust funds have been used to purchase additional acreage. Today the state forest encompasses 780 acres and offers many recreational opportunities to its visitors.

