

Shade State Park

Backpack and Canoe Camps

These areas closed seasonally-call for details

Canoe Launch ① Public Access for Sugar Creek

② Canoe Camp

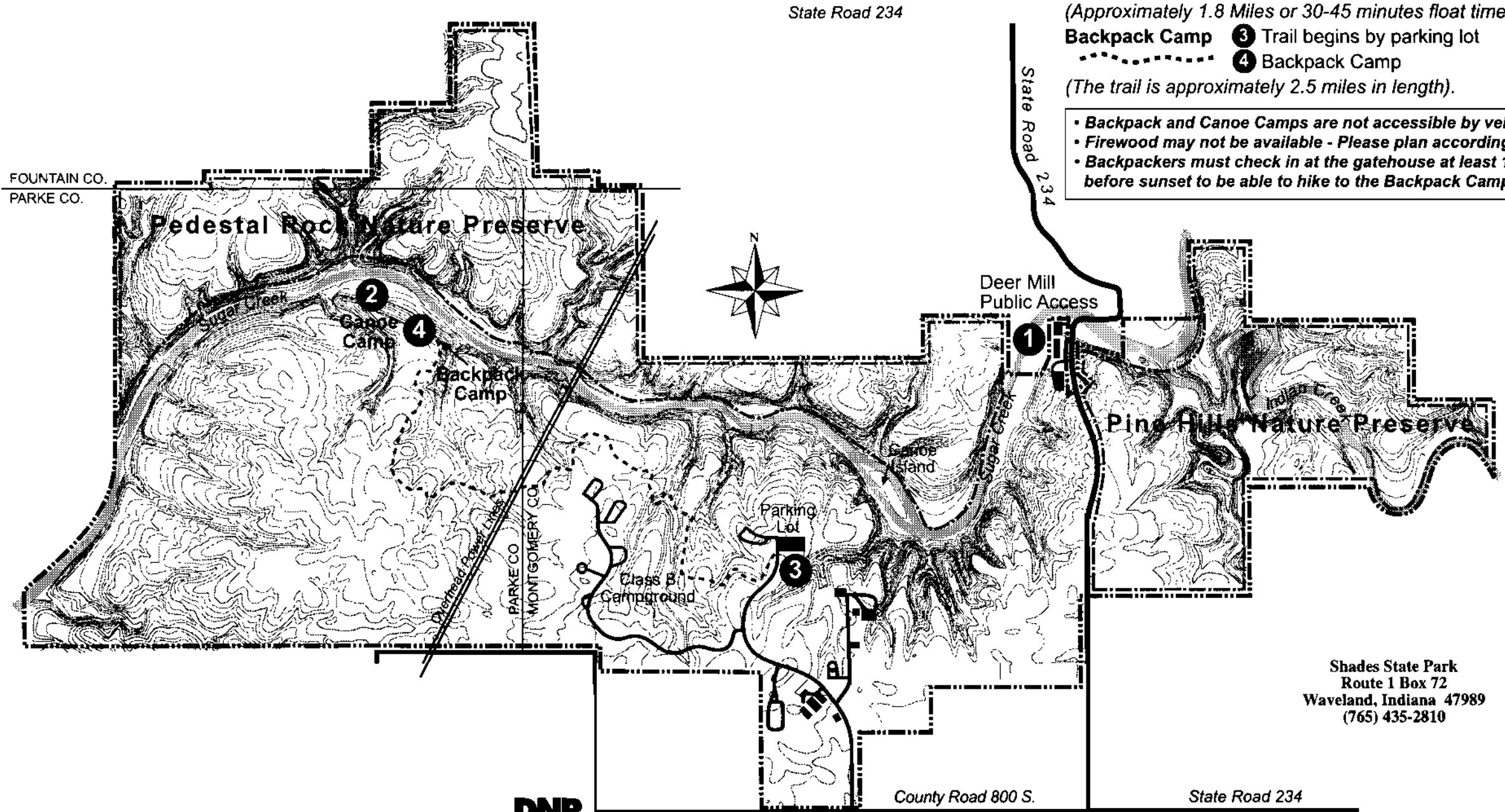
(Approximately 1.8 Miles or 30-45 minutes float time).

Backpack Camp ③ Trail begins by parking lot

④ Backpack Camp

(The trail is approximately 2.5 miles in length).

- Backpack and Canoe Camps are not accessible by vehicle.
- Firewood may not be available - Please plan accordingly.
- Backpackers must check in at the gatehouse at least 1 hour before sunset to be able to hike to the Backpack Camp.



Shades State Park
Route 1 Box 72
Waveland, Indiana 47989
(765) 435-2810

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Park Entrance

GUIDE TO SHADES STATE PARK BACKPACK TRAIL

The trail begins in young second-growth forest, marked by many tall, straight tulip trees. Occasional meadows provide splashes of late summer color, as flowers such as Queen Anne's lace, asters and goldenrod bloom.

The trail then follows an old fire lane through an older second-growth forest. Shagbark hickory, honey locust, ash, and black cherry trees are common. This area was once logged. There are only a few big trees remaining; look for these growing in the ravine walls!

The trail follows the fire lane through an old pine plantation on top of a ridge. The surrounding ridge tops are also covered with pines. These ridge tops were once logged, and then reforested with white pine (5 needles/bunch), pitch pine (3 needles/bunch), and scotch pine (orange bark).

The pines give way to a young forest with red oak, sassafras, cherry and dogwood. Once again look along the ravine walls for bigger trees like the smooth gray-barked beech. These areas may not have been logged. In openings, look for junipers, small tulip trees and pine seedlings.

The trail descends into the ravine, crosses a small stream, and climbs to another ridge top. Stop in the ravine and notice how different the forest seems! Water loving trees like the sycamore with it's white under bark, the warty-barked hackberry and the ironwood (musclewood) tree are found here. A thicket of scouring rush grows in the little stream.

The open areas that the trail passes through next were recently farmed, but forest is slowly moving in! Broom sedge grass is plentiful. A variety of meadow flowers are common. Pine and oak seedlings, thorny hawthorns and crabapples, dogwood, sumac, juniper and cherry are abundant here, too. They form the beginning of a new forest.

After passing under the overhead power lines, the trail descends into a low area. The forest contains walnut and honey locust trees and poison ivy vines. The trail continues through more areas of *successional* plants (meadows with young trees) and ends in the field connecting to Sugar Creek.

BACKPACK CAMP USE RESTRICTIONS

1. The Backpack camp is restricted to backpacking campers only. The backpack camp is not accessible by automobile.
2. It is strictly backpack into the area and backpack out, 2 1/2 miles one way. Campers are expected to be equipped for this type of camping.
3. Campers must be checked in at the gatehouse at least one hour before sunset to have time to safely hike to the camp and set up. Campers arriving with less than one hour before sunset will not be allowed to use this area.
4. Area is on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are 7 backpack sites in the camp. Camping must be confined to these sites. Camping along the trail is strictly prohibited.
5. The area is strictly primitive; there are no modern facilities. The area does have potable water available and a pit toilet.
6. A site may consist of up to 6 people with a maximum of two tents.
7. Firewood may not be collected at the camp. Firewood sold to campers by the park is not guaranteed. (*See #4 under Items for Planning your Backpack or Canoe Camp Outing*)

GUIDE TO SHADES STATE PARK CANOE CAMP

The canoe campground is located on the bank of Sugar Creek in a rich bottomland forest that probably has not been logged. Large white-branched sycamore trees grow along the creek, and near the campground. Look for warty-barked hackberry and big, gray-barked beech trees. Above the campground is a typical upland forest, including beeches, maples, tulip trees and several kinds of oaks and hickories.

The steep cliffs you see while canoeing are massive deposits of sandstone formed hundreds of millions of years ago. At that time, this area was under an ocean. Sand, mud, and plant and animal remains washed in and accumulated on the ocean floor. Eventually thick deposits of sandstone became fossilized. Look for these fossils on the sandbars. They are frequently released from the stone as Sugar Creek cuts through the sandstone.

Hemlocks grow on the on the edges of cliffs. During the ice age, glaciers covered this portion of Indiana. The hemlocks are a relic of the forest that covered Indiana during the glacial period. As the glaciers melted and retreated to the north, water cut through the sandstone and formed the steep cliffs and canyons along the creek. Seeds of hemlock and other plants carried down in the ice from northern forests were left behind.

CANOE CAMP USE RESTRICTIONS

1. The Canoe camp is restricted to canoeists only. It is to provide an opportunity for an overnight canoe trip. Occupancy is limited to a one night period.
2. The Canoe camp is not accessible by automobile. It is not a public access site and canoes may not be taken out at this location. Canoeists have the option of going upstream 2 miles to Deer's Mill Public Access or downstream 9 miles to Brush Creek Public Access.
3. A site may consist up to 6 people with a maximum of two tents.
4. The area is strictly primitive; there are no modern facilities. Potable water is available up the hill at the backpack camp. A pit toilet is located approximately 75 yards up the access road going toward backpack camp.
5. The canoe camp may be very busy at certain times. People desiring to use this area will not be denied access due to lack of alternative camping areas along the stream.
6. Firewood may not be collected at the camp. Firewood sold to campers by the park is not guaranteed. (*see #4 under Items for Planning your Backpack or Canoe Camp Outing*)

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

- Build fires only in designated areas.
- Be sure that all smoking materials are disposed up of properly.
- Report any violation of fire regulations to park officials at once.
- Leave only footprints. Take only memories.

ITEMS FOR PLANNING YOUR BACKPACK OR CANOE CAMP OUTING

1. **Both of these areas are closed seasonally.** Camping is strictly prohibited from late October to early April. No reservations. First-come first-serve only.
2. These are primitive areas. The areas are NOT accessible by automobile or other motorized vehicle. Please plan accordingly.
3. There are fees and campers are required to register. Contact the main park office for specifics.
4. Campers using these areas should plan for low impact camping. Portable cook stoves or similar items should be brought for cooking. Lanterns or similar items should be brought for light. **Firewood may not be picked up at the site. Firewood may be available (1 (one) bundle per site per night) from the park security officer, however due to other commitments this is not guaranteed.** Please plan accordingly.

Fires are permitted only in fire rings provided.

5. Campers using these areas should consider them as "remote areas." When camping in remote areas the users accept more responsibility for their own needs and safety. The response time for emergencies at these areas can vary up to one to two hours (or more) depending on the method used for reporting (when campers have to hike out to report an emergency).
6. Transportation will not be provided to users and the hiking of all trails is prohibited at dusk. The one hour restriction prior to sunset (*see #3 under Backpack Camp Use Restrictions*) is strictly enforced and this includes people wanting to meet campers at these areas.
7. Canoe camp will not be used as a public access site.
8. Both campgrounds (canoe and backpack) are strictly primitive, no modern facilities. Areas do have a potable water source and pit toilets.