

# INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

1600 North 25 East | Chesterton, IN 46304 | 219-926-1952  
 2,182 Acres | Established 1925

**WARNINGS**

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited except in designated areas.
- Prevent dune erosion. Please stay on marked trails.
- Lake Michigan can be dangerous. For your safety, swim in guarded areas only.
- Pets are strictly prohibited on swimming beach.

**J.D. MARSHALL UNDERWATER PRESERVE**  
 100 acres

**TRAIL INFO**

TRAIL	MILES	TRAIL TYPE
2	3.0	Easy
3	1.0	Moderate
4	0.75	Moderate
7	1.1	Moderate
8	1.5	Rugged
9	3.75	Rugged
10	5.5	Moderate

**SCALE & COMPASS**

0 0.13 0.25 0.5

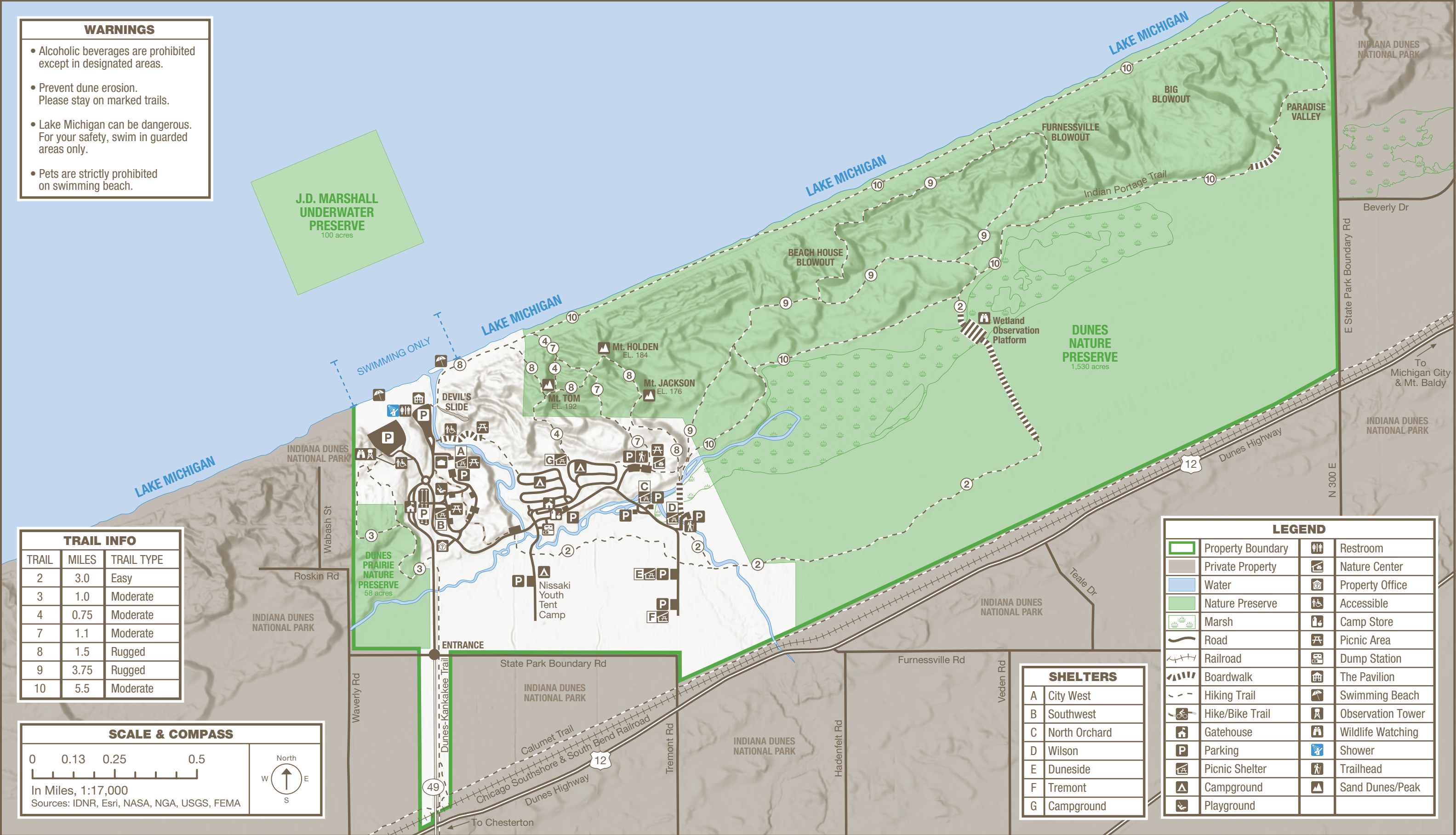
In Miles, 1:17,000  
 Sources: IDNR, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

**LEGEND**

	Property Boundary		Restroom
	Private Property		Nature Center
	Water		Property Office
	Nature Preserve		Accessible
	Marsh		Camp Store
	Road		Picnic Area
	Railroad		Dump Station
	Boardwalk		The Pavilion
	Hiking Trail		Swimming Beach
	Hike/Bike Trail		Observation Tower
	Gatehouse		Wildlife Watching
	Parking		Shower
	Picnic Shelter		Trailhead
	Campground		Sand Dunes/Peak
	Playground		

**SHELTERS**

A	City West
B	Southwest
C	North Orchard
D	Wilson
E	Duneside
F	Tremont
G	Campground





## THE PARK STORY

Lake Michigan and its dunes have long influenced the surrounding ecosystems and the people who visit, study and protect them.

During the ice age, a lobe of the Wisconsin glacier created the basin for the lake, which once was once a larger body of water. As its level fell, new shorelines formed, and a series of dunes separated by low, wet areas resulted.

Varied ecosystems converge here to create the highest level of biological diversity found along the lake's southern shoreline. Many of its plant and animal species are federally or state endangered.

For thousands of years, people have lived near the lake. For the Potawatomi, Miami, Ojibway (Chippewa) and other tribes, it was a water highway, and its bordering wetlands offered fish, wildlife, and plants for food, weaving, and more.

The field of ecology began here, as Henry Cowles, a University of Chicago professor, developed the concept of plant succession, which you can experience by walking inland from the lakeshore. The dynamic nature of the dunes is influenced by wind, sand movement, and even fire, contributing to a constantly evolving ecosystem.

Scientific findings led the Prairie Club of Chicago, a hiking club, to take a lead role in preserving the dunes. The club's efforts, along with Indiana state leadership, led to the 1925 creation of the state park, which today is surrounded on three sides by Indiana Dunes National Park.

During the 1930s, Company 556 of the Civilian Conservation Corps lived here and built trails, bridges and the Wilson Shelter.

Two-thirds of Indiana Dunes State Park's shoreline, rising dunes, and forests are dedicated nature preserve. Visit for a day of swimming or a longer stay in the campground.



## RULES & REGULATIONS

- Please obey all property rules & regulations.

[on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules](http://on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules)



## ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

- Look for these icons on the map.

**BIRDING:** Excellent spring and fall migration opportunities. See Nature Center for current sightings.

**CAMPING:** Two comfort stations equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. 140 campsites with 50 amp. Service can accommodate camping structures up to 50 feet long. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)

**CONCESSION & CAMPGROUND GROCERY:** Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available. Open summer months.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS:** Ski trails are provided for people with their own equipment. Ski rental is not available.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE:** Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available at [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](http://InterpretiveServices.IN.gov) or by calling (219) 926-1390.

**NATURE CENTER:** Natural and cultural history displays, wildlife observation room, library and audio visual presentations are available.

**PICNIC AREAS:** Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and shelters. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)

**REFRESHMENT FACILITIES:** Restaurant, rooftop bar and grill, concession stand, and gift shop are available at the beach pavilion.

**SWIMMING:** Swimming permitted in designated area when lifeguard on duty. Free beach. Restrooms and beach open from Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day. Clothing is required.

**YOUTH TENT CAMPING:** For organized youth groups under adult supervision in designated areas. Advance reservations required. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)



## TRAIL CHALLENGE

- Try one of our challenges and earn merchandise to purchase. Participate in the 3 Dune or Centennial Challenge at Indiana Dunes State Park. Visit the site and select your park of choice to learn more.

[on.IN.gov/parks-challenges](http://on.IN.gov/parks-challenges)



## HIKING TRAILS

- For safety, please stay on marked trails.
- Bicycles prohibited on hiking trails.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
<b>Trail 2</b>	3.0 mi.	Easy

The best trail for early spring flowers and ferns. Climax forest is used for cross-country skiing during the winter season.

<b>Trail 3</b>	0.75 mi.	Moderate
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Provides an opportunity to view succession in dunes area. Excellent for late spring wildflowers, including prickly pear cactus.

<b>Trail 4</b>	0.75 mi.	Easy
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Hike through dunes covered in black oak forest.

<b>Trail 7</b>	1.1 mi.	Moderate
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Similar to Trail 4. Most direct route from Nature Center to beach.

<b>Trail 8</b>	1.5 mi.	Rugged
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Goes over the tops of the three highest dunes of the Indiana Dunes.

<b>Trail 9</b>	3.75 mi.	Rugged
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Provides best representative view of the dunes. Good view of lake.

<b>Trail 10</b>	5.5 mi.	Moderate
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Hikers are rewarded by stands of white pine and a "tree graveyard" near Big Blowout. A good morning hike.



## FRIENDS GROUP

### Friends of Indiana Dunes

Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc., fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the dunes by sponsoring special events and educational programs. For information, visit:

[on.IN.gov/INStateParksFriends](http://on.IN.gov/INStateParksFriends)

Memories made naturally.  
INDIANA STATE PARKS

## DISCOVER • CHALLENGE • EXPLORE

### HOOSIER QUEST-Pin & Patch Program

Each state park offers you the opportunity to complete tasks to earn a patch or property pin.

[on.IN.gov/hoosierquest](http://on.IN.gov/hoosierquest)

## BOOK YOUR STAY • RESERVE TODAY

### GET OUT and GO CAMPING

Call or go online to make your reservation for all types of

- Camping
- Family Cabins
- Shelters

Includes state parks, reservoirs and forests.

1-866-6campIN  
(1-866-622-6746)

[camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)

### STAY IN at a STATE PARK INN

Call or go online to make your reservation for a(n)

- State Park Inn
- Inns-managed Cabin

Seven State Parks include Inns: Brown County, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, McCormick's Creek, Spring Mill, Turkey Run and Pokagon.

1-877-lodges1  
(1-877-563-4371)

[IndianalInns.com](http://IndianalInns.com)



For a full list of events, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov)



Please carry out all trash you produce to help keep the property clean and beautiful for all to enjoy!



## FOLLOW US



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## CALUMET TRAIL

The Calumet Trail is a 9.2-mile trail designed for bicycling, jogging, hiking and cross-country skiing. It lies adjacent to Indiana Dunes State Park and passes through Indiana Dunes National Park, providing a link to several points of interest.

The Calumet Trail was developed on land leased from the Northern Indiana Public Service Company. It lies within the company's utility corridor, and was developed with the assistance of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company and the National Park Service.



## DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- Find more DNR properties at [on.IN.gov/recfinder](http://on.IN.gov/recfinder).

### POTATO CREEK STATE PARK

boating, boat ramp, bridle trails, fishing, ice fishing, interpretive service, interpretive center, hiking trails, mountain bike, playground, camping, bike and boat rental, swimming, wildlife watching

### HOOSIER PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE

1 mile hiking trail, parking, wildlife watching



## TRUE TALES

- **HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE:** The Dunes Pavilion was built in 1929 to provide a bathhouse, fine-dining restaurant, restrooms, and concessions.
- **HISTORIC SHIPWRECK:** On June 10, 1911, the steamship J.D. Marshall sank 600 yards offshore from the Pavilion. Four of the crew perished. The shipwreck is still at the bottom of the lake and is Indiana's first designated underwater nature preserve.
- **MIGRATION MEETUP:** Birds migrating south along the east and west coasts of Lake Michigan converge in huge numbers at Indiana Dunes State Park, making it a premier birding destination. Visit the bird observation platform during spring and fall to catch a glimpse of migration in action.

DNR  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

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1600 North 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304

(219) 926-1952

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[on.IN.gov/stateparks](http://on.IN.gov/stateparks)