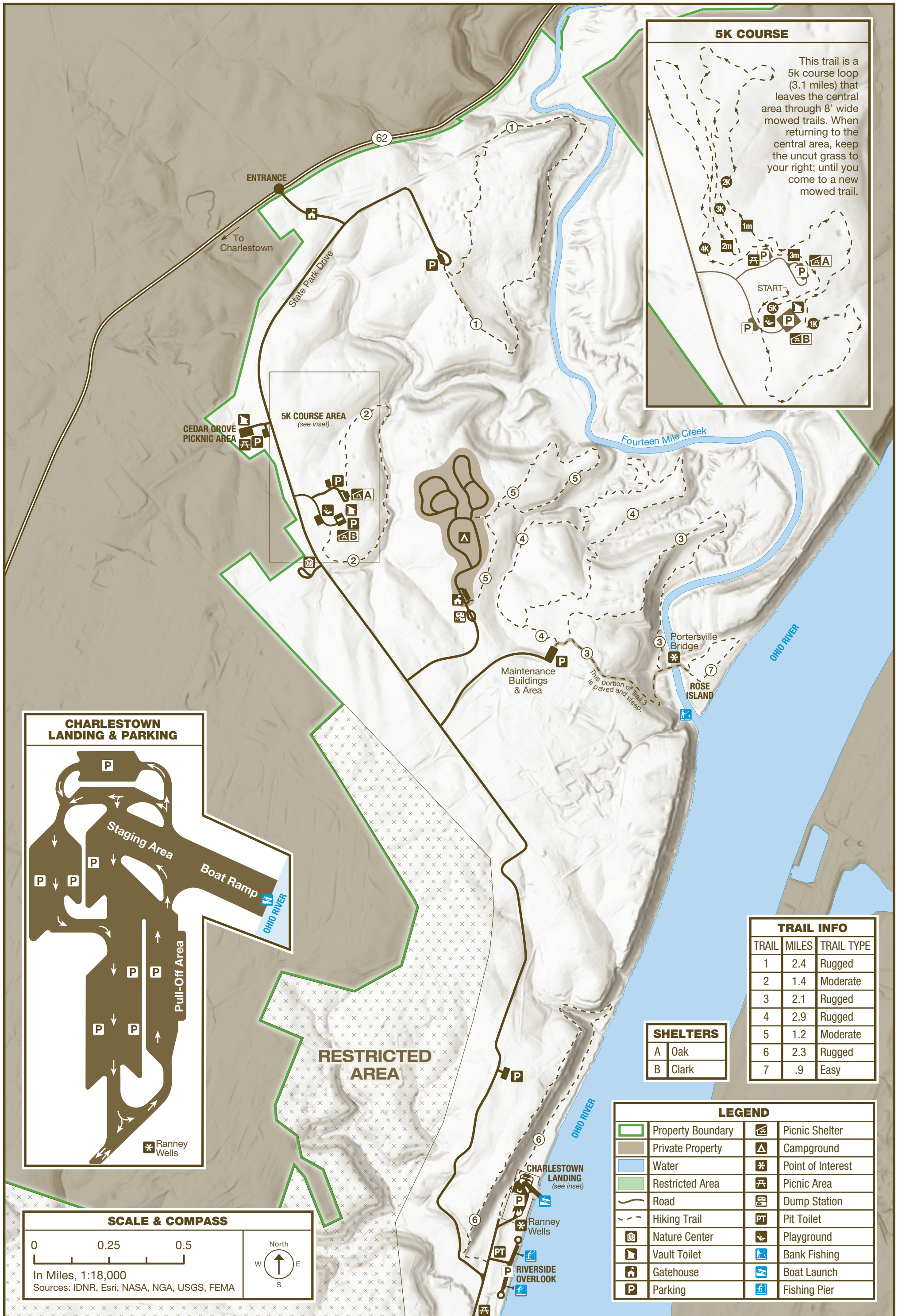


CHARLESTOWN STATE PARK

3000 State Park Drive | Charlestown, IN 47111 | 812-256-5600
5,100 Acres | Established 1996



5K COURSE

This trail is a 5k course loop (3.1 miles) that leaves the central area through 8' wide mowed trails. When returning to the central area, keep the uncut grass to your right; until you come to a new mowed trail.

CHARLESTOWN LANDING & PARKING

Staging Area
Boat Ramp
Pull-Off Area
Ranney Wells

TRAIL INFO		
TRAIL	MILES	TRAIL TYPE
1	2.4	Rugged
2	1.4	Moderate
3	2.1	Rugged
4	2.9	Rugged
5	1.2	Moderate
6	2.3	Rugged
7	.9	Easy

SHELTERS	
A	Oak
B	Clark

LEGEND			
	Property Boundary		Picnic Shelter
	Private Property		Campground
	Water		Point of Interest
	Restricted Area		Picnic Area
	Road		Dump Station
	Hiking Trail		Pit Toilet
	Nature Center		Playground
	Vault Toilet		Bank Fishing
	Gatehouse		Boat Launch
	Parking		Fishing Pier

SCALE & COMPASS

0 0.25 0.5
In Miles, 1:18,000
Sources: IDNR, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA



THE PARK STORY

Charlestown State Park's land has had many interesting uses.

Its Late Ordovician bedrock began forming 450 million years ago when a warm, shallow ocean covered the region. The remains of corals, sponges, bivalve shells and other materials accumulated, creating solid limestone.

Glaciers entered what's now Indiana 75 million years ago from the north. The Wisconsin Glacier reached its southernmost extreme just north of the park. Large volumes of their meltwater carved the path of today's Ohio River and its tributaries.

Archaeological sites at Charlestown reveal stories from AD 900– AD 1600. Mounds created from discarded shells from mussels, once an abundant food source, have been found.

More recently, the Delaware and Shawnee lived here. Most were forcibly removed in the late 1800s due to European settlement, but many still live in the area.

Long before state park days, steamboats from Louisville brought church groups up the river for picnics at Fern Grove, on the east side of Fourteenmile Creek. When that property changed hands, it became Rose Island summer resort, which the Flood of 1937 decimated, forcing its permanent closure.

In the late 1930s, U.S. involvement in a world war appeared imminent. A 1939 newspaper reported that an individual "has been seeking real estate options on extensive tracts of farmland in the Charlestown vicinity." By 1940, citizens knew that nearby farmland had been purchased for a smokeless gunpowder plant. Its inland location close to railroads, a reliable water source, and a large work force made the site ideal. Soon, sleepy Charlestown became a boomtown.

In 1995, the property was turned over to the State. Today, it offers camping, interpretive programs, picnicking, fishing, and hiking.



RULES & REGULATIONS

- Please obey all property rules & regulations.

on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules



ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

- Look for these icons on the map.

BOAT LAUNCH: Available for Ohio River access and fishing. A DNR Launch Permit is not required.

CAMPING: Flush toilets, hot water, showers, and dump and water-filling stations available. All sites have electricity and will accommodate trailers. Accessible sites have a walkway to the comfort stations. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reserve at camp.IN.gov.

FISHING: Bass, bluegill, catfish and other game fish are common. State fishing license required.

HIKING: More than 16 miles of trails available. They are rated as moderate or rugged.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE: Guests can enjoy a guided hike or an informative program. Program schedules available at interpretiveservices.IN.gov or by asking for a schedule at the gatehouse, park office, or nature nook. These services are provided year-round. Hours may vary during winter.

PICNIC AREAS: toilet facilities, playground equipment, shelters and playfields.

PLAYGROUNDS: Available near the Clark Shelter and in the campground.

SHELTERS: Reservations for shelters available at camp.IN.gov.

TELEPHONE: A public phone is located near the gatehouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Inquire at the gatehouse about activities and facilities.



DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- Find more DNR properties at on.IN.gov/recfinder.

CLARK STATE FOREST WITH DEAM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

boating, boat ramps, camping, fishing, hiking, bridge trails, hunting, interpretive center, mountain biking, picnicking, playground, play/sports area, shelterhouse, swimming, target ranges

FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK

boat ramps, fishing, fossils, hiking, interpretive services, historic features, interpretive center, wildlife watching



HIKING TRAILS

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

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 1	2.4 mi.	Rugged

Begins at the parking lot and follows a path a bit before turning and descending into the valley. It then meanders through dense floodplain forest before climbing and winding along rock outcrops and abutments. With views of Fourteenmile Creek, the trail climbs again as it returns to the parking lot. A variety of wildlife and spring wildflowers may be seen along this trail.

Trail 2	1.4 mi.	Moderate
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Begins in the picnic area and follows several stream ravines before returning to the picnic area. It runs along heavily forested hillsides, crosses several small ravines, and has views of several small cascading falls and rock-bottom streams.

Trail 3	2.1 mi.	Rugged
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Begins with a very steep road grade that leads to Portersville bridge over Fourteenmile Creek. The bridge was dismantled from Dubois and Daviess counties, and rebuilt at its present site. For stream-bank fishing, follow the paved portion to the creek. The trail is very scenic with views of Fourteenmile Creek, rock cliffs, spring wildflowers, and mixed deciduous forests.

Trail 4	2.9 mi.	Moderate
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Begins on gently rolling land then begins to descend into mixed hardwood forests. Near the halfway point, hikers can view Fourteenmile Creek from a bluff more than 100 feet above the water. Woodlands and wildflowers are abundant.

Trail 5	2.0 mi.	Moderate
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Begins at the campground overflow parking lot and follows an old road bed. Take a right at the first tee, left takes you to the campground, turn right and you will find a loop featuring an overlook more than 100 feet over Fourteenmile Creek. Beautiful wildflowers line the trail in the spring. Campers can enter the trail near campsite 17.

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

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(1-866-622-6746)

camp.IN.gov

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

IndianalInns.com

For a full list of events, visit 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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TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 6	2.3 mi.	Rugged

Begins at the Riverside Overlook and runs along the top of the river bluff, offering glimpses of the Ohio River and Twelvemile Island. A bridge crosses a natural waterfall and descends to the old Charlestown Landing site. From there it is a stroll along the bluff bottom.

Trail 7: Rose Island Loop	.9 mi.	Easy
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Take Trail 3 southbound to the historic Portersville Bridge. Notice Trail 3 is a steep, paved .6 mile path. For ADA assistance, call the park office to arrange transportation to Rose Island Loop Trail. Rose Island was a summer resort in the 1920s that boasted many attractions. The 1937 flood damaged the park beyond repair and today a trail meanders around the "island" showcasing the former attractions.

5K Course	3.1 mi.	Easy
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Designed as a 5 kilometer loop that repeatedly leaves the central area through 8 feet wide mowed trails. When returning to the central area, keep the uncut grass to your right until you come to a new mowed trail. The course is marked with posts at all 5 kilometers and at each mile.



TRUE TALES

- **INTERESTING HISTORY:** During WWII, the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant covered approximately 15,000 acres including what is now Charlestown State Park.
- **INTERESTING LANDSCAPE:** The park's deep, shaded ravines are cooler and moister than the surrounding landscape, creating a climate for plants typically found farther north.
- **INDUSTRIAL ITEM:** Multiple Ranney wells pumped between 300-2,000 gallons of water per minute from an aquifer below the park to supply the ammunition plant. All wells have now been capped and structures removed except for one that's left for guests to see.



CHARLESTOWN STATE PARK



Charlestown State Park
3000 State Park Drive
Charlestown, IN 47111

(812) 256-5600

on.IN.gov/charlestownsp

charlestownsp@dnr.IN.gov

on.IN.gov/stateparks