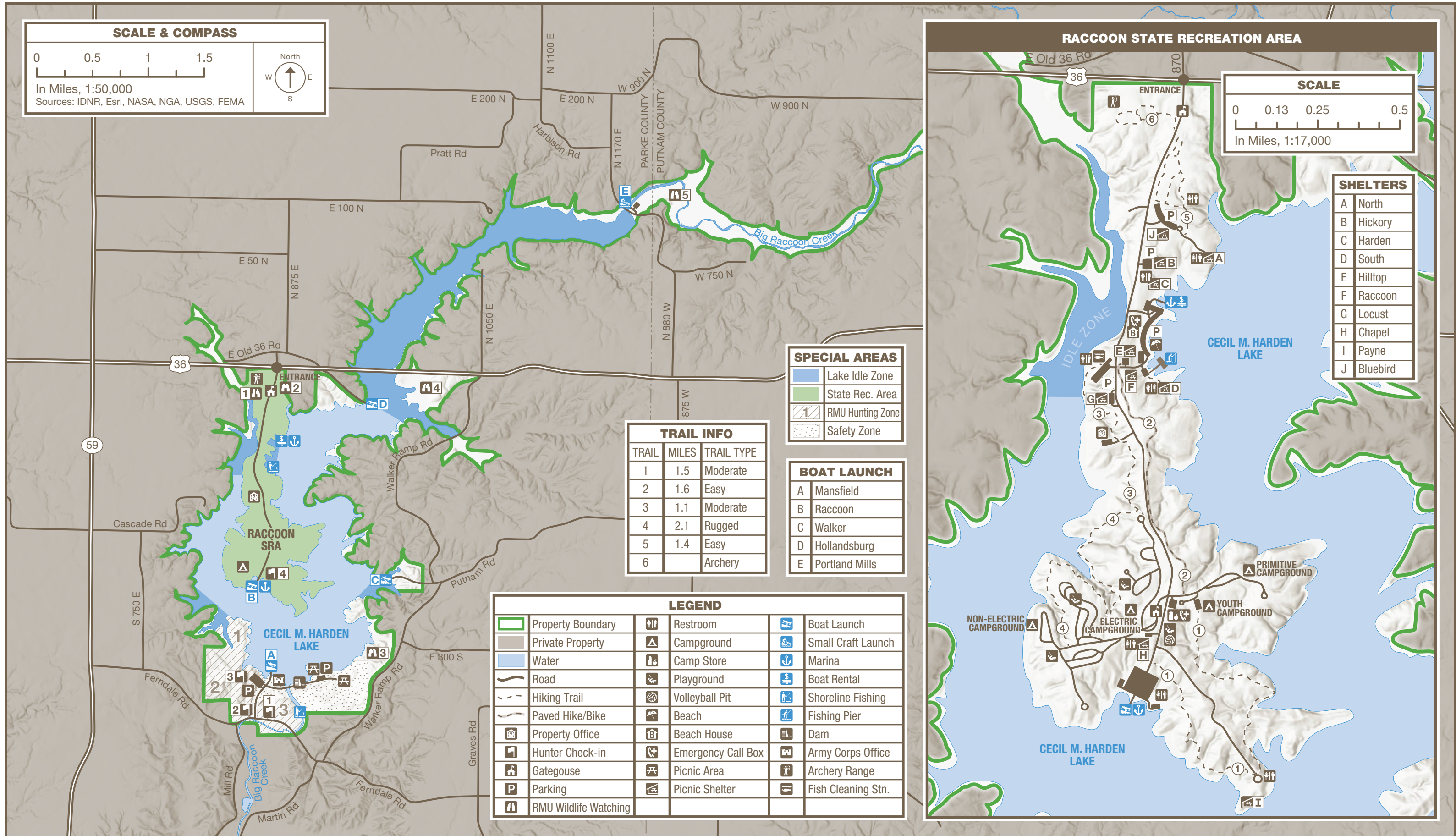


CECIL M. HARDEN LAKE

WITH RACCOON STATE RECREATION AREA

1588 S. Raccoon Parkway | Rockville, IN 47872 | 765-344-1412 | 4,065 Acres, 2,060-Acre Lake | Established 1960





OUR STORY

Cecil M. Harden Lake's history is woven through the ancient layers of limestone and sandstone that form its bedrock. The deeper limestone originated when a shallow ocean covered the region. Shells of its marine animals were compressed into layers of bedrock overtime. Sandstone formed above the limestone when layers of sand particles deposited by rivers were cemented together.

The property's rolling landscape dotted with streams and ravines formed tens of thousands of years ago during the ice age. Ice sheets from the north deposited a thick layer of Canadian soil over the sandstone bedrock. Glacier meltwater eventually cut through the soil to form steep ravines and stream paths.

The Myaamia (Miami) have lived in this area since time immemorial. Other tribes such as the Delaware and Shawnee also lived here. After thousands of years and a series of treaties, most tribe members were forcibly removed.

In the early 1800s, European settlers cleared the land for farming and used water-powered gristmills to convert grain into flour. In the mid-1800s, Jacob Rohm automated technology at his mill in Mansfield. One of the few remaining turbine-driven roller mills in the state, Mansfield Mill is managed as part of Cecil M. Harden Lake.

In 1938, a lake was authorized for flood control on Big Raccoon Creek. Construction began in 1956, and the project was completed in 1960. Originally called Mansfield Lake, its name was changed in recognition of five-term U.S. Representative Cecil M. Harden.

Today the lake also provides water recreation, and wildlife habitat. Most recreational facilities are in Raccoon State Recreation Area, where guests enjoy fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, and interpretive programs.



RULES & REGULATIONS

- Please obey all property rules & regulations.

on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules



ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

- Look for these icons on the map.

ARCHERY: Wooded trail with five stationed 3-D targets for practicing. Bring your own gear. See archery trail map for range details.

BEACH: Swimming, modern beach house and concessions available Memorial through Labor Days.

BOAT LAUNCH: Five locations available. Raccoon ramp open year-round; all other ramps are seasonal. Subject to closure during high water.

BOATS & CANOES: Fishing, pontoon and ski boats available by the hour or day. Inquire at Boat Rental Office for rates and reservations.

CAMPING: Electric, non-electric and primitive camp sites available. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reserve at camp.IN.gov.

YOUTH TENT CAMPING: Offered for organized youth groups under adult supervision in designated areas. Advance reservations required. Reserve at camp.IN.gov.

CAMP STORE: Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.

FISHING: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, walleye and white bass. Trout fishing available in tailwater area in season. State license required. Available at lake office and online.

HIKING: Easy to rugged marked trails are available for hiking all year.

HUNTING: All hunters are required by law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter sign-in station. Although limited by area, there are some hunting opportunities for waterfowl and upland game.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE: Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. A Naturalist is available year-round. Find the program schedules at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call 765-344-1412.

PICNIC AREAS/SHELTERS: Picnicking is available in a number of areas, containing tables, grills, toilet facilities and playfield. Accessible picnic sites available. Reserve at camp.IN.gov.



HIKING TRAILS

- For safety, please stay on marked trails.
- Trails 1-5 closed during high water.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 1	1.5 mi.	Moderate

Traverses the south shore of the peninsula between the main boat ramp and the camp store, passing the Payne shelter, the 1800s Payne Cemetery, Miami Vista, She-Who-Oh Vista ("Lean Raccoon") and three scenic overlooks of the lake.

Trail 2-Paved Hike/Bike	1.6 mi.	Easy
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ADA Paved Trail—Bikers and hikers will see areas of second growth, mature forest and steep ravines.

Trail 3	1.1 mi.	Moderate
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Starts on the northern edge of Raccoon Run campground. Trees include maple, oak, poplar and sycamore. Hikers will pass several bank-fishing areas before the trail concludes at the fish-cleaning station.

Trail 4	52.1 mi.	Rugged
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Starts near the west edge of the Whitetail campground. Hikers will see deep sandstone cliffs and several open views of the lake while on the rugged terrain.

Trail 5	1.4 mi.	Moderate
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Begins and ends near the Bluebird shelter parking lot, leads through successional vegetation, second-growth timber and a variety of artificial wildlife homes.

Trail 5-Archery Range	Moderate
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Trail begins at the gatehouse parking lot and leads through the Twin Ponds area. Archery enthusiasts can shoot at stationary targets and from elevated stands along a five-station, real-condition, simulated practice trail. Broadheads and aerial shooting prohibited.



DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

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

SHADES STATE PARK

Camping, fishing, hiking trails, seasonal interpretive service, picnic areas, shelter house, youth tent areas, wildlife watching

BIG WALNUT-TALL TIMBERS TRAIL NATURE PRESERVE

Hiking, parking, wildlife watching



TRUE TALES

• **SETTLEMENT FEATURE:** Portland Mills, now a small craft boat ramp and historic site, was one of the early communities in the area. The town, then known as Portland, included a church, a water-powered gristmill, covered bridge, general store, and dozens of homes.

• **INTERESTING GEOLOGY:** Raccoon SRA contains Mansfield sandstone, found only in west-central Indiana and eastern Illinois. It is known for its pinkish color and a bleeding effect seen in some canyons.

• **HISTORIC FEATURE:** Tex Terry, a prolific Old West movie actor, retired in Parke County in 1967. He and his wife bought the Mansfield Mill and parts of the village in an attempt to turn it into an Old West theme park. Today, this 3 1/2 story 1880s flour mill contains most of the original equipment and stands as an example of the beginnings of industrial automation in Indiana. Located six miles south of and managed by Raccoon SRA, visit when the historic mill is staffed during these festivals: Mushroom, Beans and Cornbread, and Covered Bridge.

Memories made naturally.
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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!

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