Welcome to Deam Lake State Recreation Area

Deam Lake State Recreation Area is located within the boundaries of Clark State Forest, Indiana’s oldest State Forest property, which was established in 1903. Deam Lake is specifically designed to offer a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, boating, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting and biking in designated areas. For those who may want a camping experience but would prefer a roof over their heads, camping cabins are also available for rent.

The property occupies about 1,300 acres, which includes a 194-acre lake that was constructed in 1965 and was named in honor of Charles C. Deam, Indiana’s first State Forester and a renowned botanist. Deam is best known for his book, Trees of Indiana, a comprehensive study of the native trees throughout the state. He was also instrumental in acquiring land that would eventually become part of Indiana’s state forest system. But perhaps Deam’s greatest contribution to our state’s natural legacy was his authoring of the Indiana Forest Classification Act which resulted in the conservation of hundreds of thousands of acres.

State Forest Management Policy

State forests are managed under a policy of multiple use in order to obtain benefits of recreation, forest products, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. The growth and harvest of timber is planned to be compatible with ecosystem management, and to retain the many benefits that forests naturally provide.

Deam Lake State Recreation Area
1217 Deam Lake Road
Borden IN 47106
Phone: (812) 246-5421
e-mail: deamlakesra@dnr.IN.gov

Our Mission

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana’s public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.
Welcome to the mountain bike trail at Deam Lake State Recreation Area. The bike trail consists of a loop known as the “Yellow Trail”, and is shared with horse riding enthusiasts. The loop is approximately 6.0 miles in its entirety. The east side of the trail is gravel and is mostly flat. The west side of the trail winds through wooded areas and is gravel and dirt. It offers several moderate hills, but no jumps or obstacles. Cyclists should park either in the overflow lot just past the entrance gate or in the Day Ride parking lot. The Sunday before Thanksgiving each year we will close the gate to the campground road just past the Day Ride parking lot. Cyclists should access the Yellow Trail at the NW corner of the lot. We want you to have a great time! For enjoyment of all our visitors, please keep a few things in mind:

- Mountain bikes permitted on the Yellow Trail ONLY.
- Cyclists will be sharing the trail with horseback riders and hikers. Right-of-way should always be yielded to people on horseback.
- Currently mountain biking is prohibited anywhere else in Clark State Forest, so check your maps carefully to make sure you stay within the designated Yellow Trail at Deam Lake.
- Always be sure to wear orange during hunting season!

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES**

- Wearing helmets and safety equipment is highly recommended.
- Stay on designated bike trail only.
- Only non-motorized bicycles are permitted.
- This is a shared trail. Ride carefully! (Bike riders should yield right of way to others)
- Please try to avoid skidding on downslopes and wheel spinning on upslopes.
- Avoid riding the trail after saturating rains or snowmelt.
- Overnight camping along bike trail is not permitted.
- Maximum speed is 15 M.P.H.

We recommend wearing orange during hunting season.

In case of emergency contact the Sheriff's Department at 911.

**Enjoy your ride!**