DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

All trails are loops, except the 40-mile Tecumseh Trail, which follows parallel to Back Country Road. All trails are marked with numbered posts, decals on posts, or painted blazes (double blazes indicate a turn). The Tecumseh Trail is marked with T at trail intersections. Short trails not listed connect the campground and office area parking to hiking trails. No horses, bikes or ATVs are allowed on hiking trails.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION DISTANCE DIFFICULTY

**Tree Identification Trail**
1 mile Easy
The trailhead is located at the forest office parking area. This 0.5 mile trail is marked with tree plaques, and a tree identification booklet is available at the forest office. Please be gentle with trees!

**Pathfinder Orienteering Trail**
5 mile Easy
This trail is marked with colored post signs. The trailhead is south of Rock Ridge Campground. The trail follows a winding path through the woods. Medallion blazes indicate a turn.

**Low Gap Trail**
9.8 miles Rugged
This is the only trail that loops through the Back Country Area, east of Low Gap Road, where overnight backpack camping is permitted. The trailhead is located along Forest Road 500 S, just east of the turn for Bean Blossom Road and the Wills Picnic Shelter. Although there is no fee for camping, you must register at the forest office before camping in the Back Country Area.

**Tecumseh Trail**
40 miles Rugged
This long-distance trail incorporates several existing trails at Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. The trail follows ridge tops, climbs into and out of numerous peaceful wild hollows, and crosses many streams. This trail is marked with numbered trail posts and occasional trees marked with colored blazes. Primitive camping is allowed, including 3 trail-side shelters.

**Back Country Area**
This is the only trail that loops through the Back Country Area. The trailhead is located along Forest Road just east of the turn for Bean Blossom Road and the Wills Picnic Shelter. Although there is no fee for camping, you must register at the forest office before camping in the Back Country Area.

**CAMPING**

Primitive camping is available for a fee; campers must register for camping at the forest office. Makeup Ridge Campground, located behind the fire tower north of the forest office, has vault toilets and seasonal drinking water available. There is a picnic table and grills located on each of the campground’s 19 sites. On busy weekends, overflow camping is available at Oak Ridge Campground, Draper Cabin, and the Wallis Picnic Shelter. Oak Ridge has 10 sites and the same facilities as Makeup Ridge.

**Picnicking**

Several picnic areas and picnic shelters are available for day use. Picnic shelters are located at Cherry Lake, Bryant Creek Lake and Scout Ridge Campground. The Wallis Picnic Shelter with a large picnic area and playground is located at the junction of Forest Road and Beargrass Road, west of Bryant Creek and then the Cherry Lakes. Boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only. Beargrass Lake drained when the levee failed after several days of heavy rain in November 1993. Swimming is not permitted in any of the lakes.

**Picking**

Secluded picnic areas and picnic shelters are available for day use. Picnic shelters are located at Cherry Lake, Bryant Creek Lake and Scout Ridge Campground. The Wallis Picnic Shelter with a large picnic area and playground is located at the junction of Forest Road and Beargrass Road, west of Bryant Creek and then the Cherry Lakes. Boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only. Beargrass Lake drained when the levee failed after several days of heavy rain in November 1993. Swimming is not permitted in any of the lakes.

**Draper Cabin**
Draper Cabin is a primitive, wooden-floored log cabin that takes visitors 100 years back in time to the days before electricity, vehicles and modern plumbing. Reservations for the Draper Cabin are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The first weekend in April to the weekend before Thanksgiving. The cabin may be rented on a day by day basis, depending on weather conditions, during the winter. Call 1-866-622-6746 or go online at camp.IN.gov to view availability or make a reservation.

**FORESTRY TRAINING CENTER**

As recently as 2011, this was an old storage building. Nestled in the middle of Morgan-Monroe State Forest, this now beautifully renovated facility features state-of-the-art technology surrounded by warm Indiana native hardwood paneling. The center can be rented by any organization or agency whose mission is related to managing and conserving Indiana’s natural resources. Reservations can be made through the Morgan-Monroe State Forest Property Manager at 765-792-4654.

**HUNTING**

Pursuit of all legal game during designated Indiana hunting seasons is allowed with a valid hunting license issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (and applicable stamp privileges, federal stamps or permits, and HIP number). Trapping is only authorized in designated wildlife management areas. Contact the property manager for details. Hikers are advised to wear hunter orange or other bright clothing while on trails during hunting season.

**LAKES**

Three forest lakes, Bryant Creek Lake (9 acres), Cherry Lake (4 acres) and Prather Lake (4 acres) are open all year to fishing; a valid Indiana fishing license is required. Boats may be rented on a day by day basis, depending on weather conditions, during the winter. Call 1-866-622-6746 or go online at camp.IN.gov to view availability or make a reservation.

**CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM**

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests may be made by calling toll-free.

- **Call:** 1-866-6campIN (1-866-622-6746) online at camp.IN.gov

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Write: Morgan-Monroe State Forest
220 Forest Rd.
Martinsville, IN 46151

Call: (765) 792-4654

Online: on.IN.gov/morganmonroesf

**ADA ACCESSIBLE**

This trail follows ridge tops, climbs into and out of numerous peaceful wild hollows, and crosses many streams. This trail is marked with numbered trail posts and occasional trees marked with colored blazes. Primitive camping is allowed, including 3 trail-side shelters.

**Hike-and-Tie Trail**
5.2 miles Accessible
This trail follows the forest headquarters. This half mile trail winds through the forest, a woodland retreat at a very affordable rental rate. It’s a place where the whole family can explore the woods all day, and relax to a warm fire at night. To make reservations or check availability go online at camp.IN.gov or call 1-866-622-6746.

**Camping**

Picnicking including 3 trail-side shelters. Streams. Along this trail in permitted areas camping is allowed. Additionally, the backcountry area is restricted to only minimal-impact camping/hiking in order to preserve the natural state of Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

**CAMPFIRE**

Small campfires are allowed while backcountry camping, but the DNR recommends using a portable backpacking stove for cooking instead of a campfire. A portable stove will cook your meal long before a fire is ready. Another advantage is that it helps prevent fire-blackened rocks in areas where people camp. If using a campfire, make sure a campfire is allowed during the time of your trip. Different properties may have different rules regarding campfires. Even properties that generally allow campfires may ban them on a temporary basis because of dry conditions. Use only small dead and downward wood where permitted. Do not break or cut tree limbs or trees, even dead ones. Dead trees provide habitat for many birds and animals. While this was once considered a friendly gesture in remote areas, today it is one more way of reducing the spirit of solitude and independence that people seek when backcountry camping. Any campfire in a backcountry area should be in a pit 12 inches or less in diameter, and a 3-foot diameter area should be cleared to mineral soil around the fire. Before leaving an area where a campfire was built, mix ashes with the soil (100% extinguished), fill the pit, and cover the cleared area with the humus layer that was originally removed.

**GOLD PAN**

Panning for gold is permitted on Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. A gold panning permit is required! The permit, which can be obtained free of charge, allows for panning gold on a hobby basis. The displacement of any material through use of a pick, shovel or sluice is not allowed due to concern for water quality. Archaeological evidence found, such as projectile points, pottery or bones must be reported to the Forest Office to determine if a major archaeological site is in the vicinity. To obtain a permit, visit or call the Forest Office at 765-342-4526.

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Indiana Department of Natural Resources

**MORGAN-MONROE STATE FOREST HIKING TRAILS**

**State Forest Mission**

To manage, protect and conserve the timber, water, wildlife, soil and related forest resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, and to demonstrate proper forest management to Indiana landowners.

**Facilities**

- **Cherry Lake Lodge**
  Nestled deep in Morgan-Monroe State Forest you’ll find the solitude you seek, while still having a comfortable bed in which to sleep, hot and cold running water, indoor restroom and shower and complete kitchen facilities. This recently renovated lodge is everything you’d expect in a woodland retreat at a very affordable rental rate. It’s a place where the whole family can explore the woods all day, and relax to a warm fire at night. To make reservations or check availability go online at camp.IN.gov or call 1-866-622-6746.

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- **FORESTRY TRAINING CENTER**
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- **HUNTING**
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- **CAMPING**
  Picnicking including 3 trail-side shelters. Streams. Along this trail in permitted areas camping is allowed. Additionally, the backcountry area is restricted to only minimal-impact camping/hiking in order to preserve the natural state of Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

**For More Information**

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today. Visit DNRdata Indiana or call 317-233-3046.

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