

## Entertainment & Recreation in Indiana

### **Gary Bathing Beach Aquatorium, Gary (Lake County)**

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, the Gary Bathing Beach Aquatorium is an architectural blend of the Neoclassical and Prairie styles. This two-story, cast concrete and reinforced steel building was designed by Chicago architect George Maher in 1921. The land and the building were donated to the citizens of Gary by U.S. Steel Corporation. This was a time when people were starting to realize the health benefits of outdoor recreation and there was no better place to be than the gleaming white sand dunes and sparkling blue waters of Lake Michigan. The building contained bathing suit rentals, changing areas, showers, restrooms and a second floor viewing gallery. The Aquatorium was used until the 1970s when it was boarded up and closed to the public. In 1992 the Chanute Aquatorium Society formed to restore the building.



To learn more about the preservation of the Aquatorium, go to <http://www.spicerweb.org/miller/society.asp>

Gary Bathing Beach Aquatorium  
One Marquette Dr.  
Marquette Park  
Gary, IN

### **Century of Progress Historic District, Beverly Shores (Porter County)**

In 1933-1934 Chicago hosted the Century of Progress Exposition. The Home and Industrial Arts group consisted of 13 state-of-the-art homes thought to represent what residential design of the future would look like. Innovative engineering and construction technologies were exhibited at a time when the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression. All of the houses were scheduled to be demolished within six months after the close of the Exposition. However, real estate developer Robert Bartlett had a plan. He purchased six of the houses and intended to move them across Lake Michigan to his new development, Beverly Shores, Indiana. A 200-foot long pier was constructed in Beverly Shores to accommodate the barge that moved three of the homes. Today the Wieboldt-Rostone House, the Cypress Log House, the Florida Tropical House,



the House of Tomorrow, and the Armco-Ferro Mayflower House are privately owned by people who intend to restore them to their 1930s state. The final house, Universal House's Country Home, was destroyed by fire.

The Wieboldt-Rostone House was made of steel framing covered with Rostone slabs. Rostone was a mix of alkaline earth, shale, and limestone aggregate. It was an experimental material that was marketed as both durable and fireproof.

The Cypress Log House was the sole example of the Home and Industrial Arts group to use a traditional building material. Set in a mountain lodge atmosphere, the Log House had a 13-foot tall limestone fireplace in the great room. It also had a guest house that was moved to Beverly Shores.

The Florida Tropical House was constructed by the State of Florida of native materials—travertine, limestone, Portland cement and clay tile. The walls were supposed to be constructed of solid concrete but wood framing and stucco were used to save money. The house was painted pink and was unique because the flat roof was used for living space including a loggia, deck and recreation room.

The Armco-Ferro Mayflower House was a 2-story frameless, all-steel house. Covered with porcelain steel panels, it was used to promote steel as a residential building material. It had a third-floor solarium and accompanying guest house (not moved). This house became the inspiration for Lustron houses.

The most popular of the houses was the House of Tomorrow. Over a million people stood in line to see this 3-story, 12-sided building. It had steel framing and glass walls. The first floor had a garage and airplane hangar. It also had air-conditioning and a dishwasher.

All of these houses are privately owned and restoration is proceeding. Feel free to visit but please respect the owners' privacy.

To learn more about the Century of Progress go to:  
[http://www.nps.gov/indu/History/Century\\_of\\_Progress\\_homes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/History/Century_of_Progress_homes.htm)

200 block of Lake Front Drive  
Beverly Shores, IN

### **Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City (LaPorte County)**

Washington Park started in 1891 as a greenspace along Lake Michigan. The Park was a recreation destination and popular place for company picnics out of Chicago. In 1913 the South Shore Amusement Company operated a dance floor, skating rink, bath house, boat rentals, concessions, and thrill rides at the Park.

In the early 1900s, the fire department became an early animal shelter. People would come to visit the animals behind the fire station. In 1928 the animals were moved into cages in Washington Park and a zoo board was appointed. The Park and Zoo continued through the Depression. During the 1930s and 1940s the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and their companion programs were active in Washington Park. The WPA helped construct several buildings and landscape features of the Park including: the monkey island, brick shelters houses, the former Park Administration Building, a rock garden with waterwheel and connecting pools, tennis courts, picnic shelter, observation tower, and a massive landscape and tree planting campaign. WPA work in the Park started in 1935 and lasted, almost continuously until 1940. This activity resulted in the most complete and representative WPA-designed park in the state of Indiana.

Washington Park Zoo  
115 Lakeshore Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219/ 873-1510  
<http://www.washingtonparkzoo.com/>

### **Studebaker Clubhouse & Sign, New Carlisle (Saint Joseph County)**

In 1926, Studebaker Corporation purchased several farmsteads to construct a proving ground. They built a clubhouse, 8 miles of roadway, and engineering building, and garages on the property. Studebaker also started a major reforestation project with the Indiana Forestry Department providing the trees. Ten years later an addition 16,000 trees were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corp. It took them six weeks to plant the 6-inch seedling, over half of which were used to design a sign that spelled out “STUDEBAKER” on the grounds.

The clubhouse was constructed expressly for the accommodation and recreation of the Studebaker proving ground employees. They could eat there, relax during their off hours, stay there in inclement weather, and even board there. It is the sole residential-looking building amidst the industrial garages and engineering buildings.

With the advent of the Depression, the activity on the grounds changed. Studebaker closed the facility except for the test drives. In 1943 the U. S Army used the area for military testing. In 1945, the facility was returned to Studebaker who proceeded to reopen the complex. That return to services was short-lived. From 1948-1961 the proving grounds were vacant. The president of Studebaker had the clubhouse remodeled for his residence in 1961 but by 1963 Studebaker closed and so did the proving grounds. Bendix Corporation purchased the land and donated 175 acres to the Saint Joseph County parks and Recreation Board, including the area with the clubhouse and sign. In 1967 the clubhouse was converted to a nature center and offices for the Bendix Woods County Park.

Bendix Woods  
32132 State Road 2  
New Carlisle, IN 46552-9522  
574/ 277-4828  
<http://www.sjcparks.org/bendix.html>

### **Battell Park, Mishawaka (Saint Joseph County)**

Battell Park is an 11-acre parcel that runs along the north bank of the Saint Joseph River. Previously known as Riverside Park, it was formally dedicated as a city park in 1881 and the name was changed to Battell Park (after the family that donated the land). The first improvements came later in 1881 when a wooden fence, rustic bridge, and tree planting project were added. In 1884 the 32-foot tall Soldier's Memorial was erected. It was a 5-tier concrete base topped by an 8-foot tall white bronze figure of a Civil War soldier.



A variety of projects took place during the 1920s-1930s that contribute to the Park today. In 1927 a Neoclassical style bandshell was constructed at the west end of the park. This massive structure is covered with limestone and a copper roof. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was active in Mishawaka. They built the elaborate 5-tiered rock garden that leads to the river. There are multiple pools and cascades mixed with a variety of retaining walls and planters. A bridge crosses over the natural ravine where the rock garden is nestled. Upon the completion of the rock garden in 1936-37, the WPA began work on a circular concrete wading pool. More recent additions to the park include tennis courts, playground equipment, and a basketball court.

Battell Park  
Mishawaka Avenue  
Mishawaka, IN 46544

### **Pokagon State Park, Angola (Steuben County)**

Pokagon State Park is located in far northeastern Indiana, about 5 miles north of Angola. It was named for Simon Pokagon, chief of the Potawatomi tribe that was in the area. The park began in 1925 when the residents of Steuben County offered 580 acres of orchards and farmland to the Department of Conservation in order to make sure Lake James would be publicly accessible for perpetuity. The State of Indiana purchased an additional 130 acres and opened the park in 1926 with picnic areas and trails. The Potawatomi Inn was constructed in 1927. A much-enlarged version of the Inn still stands today.

The years 1934-1942 were a time of major change at Pokagon State Park. That is the period in which Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Company 556 was active at Pokagon. They men planted thousands of trees, landscaped the grounds, built roads and trails, and constructed a variety of outdoor recreational facilities at the park. The CCC used whatever materials were present locally so they had to hew their own lumber and split the stone to build the gatehouse, saddle barn, cabins, boathouse, bath house, park office, group camp, shelter houses, drinking fountains, roads, beaches, and campground. The CCC also constructed a ¼-mile long double-track toboggan slide. Although the run has been rebuilt and reconfigured several times over the years, it remains in the same location.

Today the park consists of 1200 acres and has a variety of activities and services. To learn more:

Pokagon State Park  
450 Lane 100 Lake James  
Angola, IN 46703  
260/ 833-2012  
<http://www.state.in.us/dnr/parklake/parks/pokagon.html>

### **Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne (Allen County)**

In 1859 the first Board of Trustees for Lindenwood Cemetery purchased 175 acres outside of Fort Wayne. They hired Englishman John Chislett, then superintendent and landscape gardener of Allegheny Park Cemetery in Pittsburgh, to plat the grounds. Another Englishman, John Doswell was appointed the superintendent and supervising landscape architect of Lindenwood. The pair created a park-like landscaped cemetery that blended with the natural features of the area.



Photo by Emanuel Palmeri, courtesy of ARCH, Inc.

The roads followed the rolling hills and ravines, there was a blend of forested areas and open space. Vistas were created using grottoes, gazeboes, bridges, and sunken gardens. Two lakes provided a contrast to the lush green landscape. In 1884 a gatehouse was built and in 1895 Fort Wayne architects Wing and Mahurin designed a solid stone chapel.

It may seem odd to include a cemetery under the topic of recreation but cemeteries did serve that purpose. During the Victorian era, families would pack a picnic and travel out of the city to spend a pleasant day outdoors with their families, those both living and dead. Park-like cemeteries and the recreation experienced there gave rise to the demand for public parks throughout the country.

Today Lindenwood is within the city limits. Most of the original features of the cemetery remain today but a few do not. The sunken gardens have been covered with grass, one of the lakes has been filled in and the gatehouse was torn down.

Lindenwood Cemetery  
2324 West Main St  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
260/ 432-4542

### **Huntington Sunken Gardens, Huntington (Huntington County)**

Sometime between 1914-1920 the Keefer and Bailey Lime, Brick, Tile, and Cement Company abandoned their quarry in Huntington. The quarry became quite an eyesore until 1923 when the proposal was made to convert it into a sunken garden. The Chicago Landscape Company created a plan for the site that created a naturalistic and informal setting with plantings, footbridges, fountains, fieldstone staircases, and a horse-shoe shaped pool. The 1 1/2-acre multi-level site included limestone walls, three different entrances, and an automobile-related fieldstone bridge. Construction lasted from 1923 to 1929. In November 1929, Better Homes and Gardens magazine featured the Sunken Gardens.

Given its location on US 24, the Sunken Gardens were promoted as a tourist attraction and destination. The automobile was a significant factor in the creation and success of the Sunken Gardens. In November

Huntington Sunken Gardens  
West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
260/ 358-2323  
<http://www.huntington.in.us/City/Parks/>

### **Wallace Circus & American Circus Winter Quarters, Peru (Miami County)**

Traveling circuses flourished in the years between the Civil War and the Great Depression. Few people may realize that Peru, Indiana, served as the winter headquarters from 1892-1938 for what would become the second largest circus in the country. Peru native Benjamin Wallace returned from the Civil War and operated a successful livery stable. As his business grew, he also began attending auctions to purchase portions of defunct circuses. In the spring of 1884 he took “Wallace and Company’s Great World Menagerie, Grand International Mardi Gras, Holiday Highway Hidalgo, and Alliance of Novelties” on the road. They traveled by train and toured the Midwest. He returned the profits back into the circus and lengthened the tours and enlarged the shows. In 1885 the circus required nine railroad cars but it grew to fifteen cars the following year. By 1893 the Wallace circus needed 30 cars to transport the performers, animals, trainers, costumes, and equipment from site to site.

During the winter months, Wallace needed someplace to house the performers and animals while they trained for the next circus season. He chose a farmstead southeast of Peru. There was an existing house on the property but Wallace added a wagon shop; a wood elephant, hippo, and cat barn; a concrete tiger, lion and bear barn, and an office building. Wallace Row, housing for the workers, was located on the road leading from the winter quarters to town.

In 1907, Wallace purchased the Wild Animal Show of Carl Hagenbeck and changed the name to the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. At that time his only competition was Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey. By 1913, Wallace had had enough of the travel associated with circus life and he sold the circus to the American Circus Corporation. He kept the winter quarters and rented it to a variety of circuses until 1921 when he sold that property to the American Circus Corporation. Ringling Brothers purchased the winter quarters in 1929 and barely managed to survive the Depression. However the glory days of the winter quarters were over. In 1938 Ringling Brothers moved the circus to a warmer climate and never came back but they didn't sell the property until 1941. At that time all of the circus-related items were sold or destroyed and there was a great wagon burning. Since 1944 the former winter quarters have served as part of a traditional Indiana farm.

This National Historic Landmark is now a private property so please respect the owners' privacy.

Old SR 124, 2 ½ miles southeast of Peru  
Peru, IN

### **Dentzel Carousel, Logansport (Cass County)**

German immigrant Gustav Dentzel began a carousel manufacturing business in Philadelphia in 1867. His father also created carousels in Kreuznach, Germany. The Dentzel family created over 100 hand-carved wood carousels during the 62-years they were in business. Approximately 20 of the Dentzels' carousels still exist although few in their original location or completely intact.

The carousel was manufactured c.1885 and was originally part of Robison Park, a trolley company park in Fort Wayne. Robison Park closed in the early 1910s and the carousels ended up in Logansport's Spencer Park in 1919. It is 40-feet in diameter and has 42 wood carved animals bedecked in a variety of colors and decoration. The privately-run carousel remained in Spencer Park until 1962 and was then moved to Riverside Park. In 1972 the Jaycees sponsored a "Save Our Carousel" campaign and they were able to raise \$15,000 to purchase the carousel. They in turn donated it to the newly-formed Cass County Carousel Association. The Carousel Association restored the carousel in 1996 and it is now under a modern shelter and is one of three complete stationary Dentzel carousels in the country. The Carousel Association continues to run the carousel during from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For questions about when the carousel is running, call 574/ 753-8725.

Logansport Parks and Recreation  
Riverside Park  
1212 Riverside Drive  
Logansport, IN 46947  
574/ 753-6969

**Collett Park, Terre Haute (Vigo County)**

Collett Park is a 21-acre park that dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Designed by local architect J. Merrill Sherman, it was dedicated in 1890 although construction was not completed until 1894. It is the oldest park in Terre Haute. Several of the early features have been lost including the bandstand, the ornate metal sign, fish pond, and flower gardens. There are tennis courts, sheltered picnic areas, and a variety of more recent facilities but the gem of the park is the 1 1/2-story pavilion. It was used for public meetings and as a polling place for the precinct.

Collette Park  
7<sup>th</sup> Street and Maple Avenue  
Terre Haute, IN  
812/ 232-2727

**Deming Park, Terre Haute (Vigo County)**

Deming Park, located on the east side of Terre Haute, is the work of landscape architect George Kessler. He created this park and adjacent Ohio Boulevard as one component of a parks and boulevard system for Terre Haute. Unfortunately Deming Park was the only element that was ever constructed. The 155-acre park was created in 1919 in response to the urban conditions that existed at the time—busy, narrow streets, congested downtowns, and dense housing conditions. The open space, fresh air, and natural setting were much sought after for the health and recreational benefits such parks offered.

Kessler's design called for the park to remain as natural as possible with curvilinear paths and native plants. Later when the Works Progress Administration (WPA) worked in Deming Park, they utilized natural materials to construct a variety of improvements. These included low fieldstone fencing at the east and west entrances, fish ponds, fieldstone lighthouse, stone drinking fountains, stone bridge, concrete seats, wood footbridge, and a pool with waterfalls. Other Deming Park amenities were children's play park and train, pool, picnic shelters, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, and a large pavilion. The 1930s "comfort station" was converted into a park office and later a residence. Also in the 1930s there was a zoo at Deming Park. This remained on the grounds until 1976.

Deming Park  
Fruitridge and Ohio Boulevard  
Terre Haute, IN



**Martinsville Gymnasium, Martinsville  
(Morgan County)**

The Martinsville High School Gymnasium served as the prototype for many 1920-1930s high school gyms. Designed by Indianapolis architects D.A. Bohlen and Son, the building was the first free-standing gym in the state. It was created specifically for basketball with 5,382 arena-style seats around all four sides of the hardwood floor. The idea of constructing a gym with more seats than the local population was unheard of prior to the Martinsville gym. Basketball had become so enormously popular that this trend spread throughout Indiana. Basketball became the sole focus of many communities during the winter months and schools did not want to turn spectators away.



The school is now the Martinsville West Middle School and the gym was renamed in 1959 and is now known as the Glenn M. Curtis Memorial Gymnasium.

Glenn M. Curtis Memorial Gymnasium  
Martinsville West Middle School  
759 South Main Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
765/ 342-6628

**Porter Pool Bathhouse, Shelbyville (Shelby County)**

The Porter Pool Bathhouse is one of several examples of Art Deco architecture in Shelbyville. Designed by D.A. Bohlen in 1930, the bathhouse was paired with a public pool that was managed by the American Legion from 1930-1955. At that point the Shelbyville Parks Department was responsible for the upkeep of the pool and bathhouse. Unfortunately the pool was demolished in 1998 and the bathhouse is now the only remaining feature to represent swimming of that era.

The cross-shaped building is highlighted by a 2-story centralized tower capped by an octagonal pyramidal roof. It exemplifies the health and safety standards that were required for public swimming facilities of the time. The interior surfaces are either concrete or glazed block to allow for ease of cleaning. Footbaths and showers also promoted a hygienic environment. A variety of dormers, louvers, and windows are present throughout the building to permit adequate air flow to dry out the building.

Historic Preservation Fund grants, administered by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, were used to consider re-use options for the Porter Pool Bathhouse. It is now being used as a visitors' center for the city of Shelbyville.

501 North Harrison Street  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

### **Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

Today Crown Hill Cemetery is the third largest cemetery in the country with its 555 acres. It began in 1864 with 274 acres including a 750-foot hill from which the cemetery got its name. John Chislett, who platted Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne, helped select the site for the cemetery. His son Frederick was hired as the superintendent for Crown Hill and he proceeded to lay out the grounds with meandering roads and the natural, informal plantings.



Only two years after Crown Hill was established, the United States National Military Cemetery was created within the existing cemetery. Over 700 Union soldiers from the Civil War are buried here. There is a separate section for the over 1600 Confederate prisoners of war who died while being held at Camp Morton in Indianapolis. In c.1876 D.A. Bohlen designed the Gothic chapel and in 1885 Adolf Scherrer created the imposing Gothic entry gates and waiting station.

Crown Hill is the final resting place of a variety of historic figures. President Benjamin Harrison is buried at Crown Hill as are authors James Whitcomb Riley and Booth Tarkington. Three Vice-Presidents and ten Indiana governors can be found here. Other influential Hoosiers buried at Crown Hill include department store founder Lyman Ayres, founder of Butler University Ovid Butler, Lilly Pharmaceuticals founder Colonel Eli Lilly, and Indianapolis Motor Speedway founder Carl Fisher.

This National Historic Landmark has a variety of tours and events. To find out more about special events contact:

Crown Hill Cemetery  
700 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
317/ 920-2726  
[www.crownhill.org](http://www.crownhill.org)

### **Broad Ripple Park Carousel, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

A second National Historic Landmark Dentzel carousel is located in Indiana (the other is in Logansport). Formerly a part of Broad Ripple Park, the carousel is now housed at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. It is one of three of the earliest carousels to have a virtually intact collection of Dentzel animals.

In 1917 the White City Amusement Park purchased 42 pre-1900 hand-carved wood Dentzel animals and a Mangels-Illions mechanism to construct a carousel. (The history of the animals from c1900-1917 is unknown). Other amusements in the park included a roller coaster, baseball diamonds, football field, cinder track, and bath houses. The Temple of Mystery, Huffman's Auto Speedway and dodge'em cars were later additions. The amusement park continued, albeit in deteriorated condition, until 1954 when it was sold to the City of Indianapolis. In 1956 the carousel was virtually destroyed when the domed pavilion housing it collapsed. The animals were salvaged but the rest of it was thrown away.

In 1965 the Children's Museum acquired two of the horses for a display. Four years later they purchased another 35 figures and put them in storage. By 1973 the decision was made to keep a couple of the animals and sell the rest of the collection. However a trip to the National Carousel Roundtable in 1973 convinced the Museum to restore the carousel and put it on permanent display. From 1975-1978 five of the remaining six Dentzel animals were located (the last figure is a Dentzel replacement), all figures were restored, a new Mangels-Illions mechanism was purchased, and a 1919 Wurlitzer carousel organ was installed. Today the fully-restored carousel is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Children's Museum.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
3000 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
317/ 334-3322  
[www.childrensmuseum.org](http://www.childrensmuseum.org)

### **Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

In 1908, automobile manufacturers and racing enthusiasts Carl Fisher, James Allison, Arthur Newby, and Frank Wheeler purchased 320 acres west of Indianapolis to construct a high-speed auto racing course. Constructed in 1909, the first track was 4-sided, 2 ½ mile crushed stone and tar. This surface proved unstable after three fatal accidents. The owners had the track rebuilt with over 3 million brick paving blocks in late 1909. A yard of those bricks are still visible at the start/finish line but the remainder of the track has been covered with asphalt.

The first 500-mile race was held on Memorial Day, 1911. At that time the grounds surrounding the track included the pit (33 service areas along the main straight-away for refueling and maintenance), the grandstands (the original 1909-1911 seating has been gradually replaced by steel and concrete stands since the conclusion of World War II),

the scoring tower (the original single story wood platform was replaced by the “Pagoda” in 1925, 1957, and the early 1990s), and gasoline alley (the 1915 garages that have been rebuilt and enlarged over the years that now service up to 88 cars).

Other features on the grounds include an office and museum building, a hotel, and a pair of golf courses (a 1929 9-hole course inside the track and an 18-hole championship course outside the track).

The Indianapolis 500 is the largest single-day spectator sporting event in the world. To learn more about the race and the track, contact:

Indianapolis Motor Speedway  
4790 West 16th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
<http://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/>

### **Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

In 1927-1928, Butler University hired Indianapolis architect Fermor Spencer Cannon to design a new athletic facility for the university. It would come to be used for sporting, recreation, entertainment, civic, religious, and political events over the years.



With the construction of Cannon’s design, Butler possessed the first major collegiate fieldhouse. The explosion of college basketball, in addition to the frenzy that created the near-cult following of high school basketball, made a new, larger facility necessary. Up until the 1960s, the Hinkle Fieldhouse was the largest indoor sports arena in the state. The annual high school basketball tournament was held here every year until the late 1960s. Part of the allure was that approximately 15,000 spectators could have an unobstructed view of the court since no posts or pillars supported the roof structure.

Hinkle Fieldhouse  
Butler University  
Corner of 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Boulevard Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

### **Hillcrest Country Club, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

Hillcrest Country Club, established in 1924, included a clubhouse, 1934 swimming pool, and a 1924 golf course. The remarkably intact



golf course is why the property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1920s-1930s is known as the “golden age” of golf course design. Hillcrest hired Indiana native, William “Bill” Diddel to design the 18-hole course. At that time there were golf course design was undertaken by player/designers—participants with extensive knowledge of the game and how to make it challenging to a variety of skill levels. Diddel was a record-setting amateur golfer and was the only five-time winner of the Indiana amateur golf championship. He designed his first course in 1923 at the Ulen Country Club in Lebanon, Indiana. During his entire career he designed over 250 golf courses including several in Indianapolis. Unfortunately most of his courses have been extensively altered over the years.

Hillcrest Country Club has the most intact and nearly pristine example of the “strategic school” of course design (only the twelfth hole has been redesigned). This design mentality was popular in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century and emphasized the use of the natural landscape. Some alteration was permissible but it had to be carefully disguised. Diddel presented golfers with options to get to the pin: a shorter more hazardous option for the skilled player and a longer, safer route for the novice. It has been said that today’s golfer, with more advanced equipment, still find this course challenging.

Hillcrest is a private club. Contact the facility for more information.

Hillcrest Country Club  
6098 Fall Creek Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317/ 251-1425

### **Bush Stadium, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

Bush Stadium, originally known as Perry Stadium, was constructed in 1931 by the Osborn Engineering Company, the most active and experienced firm in ball park construction. They built over fourteen parks from 1910-1970 including Comiskey Park, Tiger Stadium, Yankee Stadium, and Fenway Park. Local architects Pierre and Wright added the Art Deco detailing and helped create one of the finest minor league parks in the country.

The first game at Perry Stadium was played in September 1931 and the following year was the first full baseball season. Able to seat over 15,000 fans, it was the home of the Indianapolis Indians, a minor league team, from 1931-1996. The Indianapolis ABCs, a Negro League team in the 1930s and 1940s, rented the stadium for its home games. Perry Stadium was renamed Victory Field in 1942 and the name changed to Bush Stadium in 1968, after the City of Indianapolis bought it. In 1987, the movie “Eight Men Out”, about the 1919 Black Sox scandal, was filmed in Bush Stadium.

Once the Indianapolis Indians moved into their new stadium in 1996, the stadium was used for racing midget cars but this did not last long. The City of Indianapolis owns the facility but it has been vacant for several years.

Bush Stadium  
1501 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

### **Garfield Park, Indianapolis (Marion County)**

This 123-acre park southeast of downtown Indianapolis was originally a horseracing track. This venture failed and the property was sold to the City of Indianapolis in 1873 and became known as Southern Park. Upon President Garfield's assassination in 1881, it was renamed Garfield Park. The oldest park in the city, it is one of the three large parks that landscape architect George Kessler included in his 1908 park and boulevard plan for Indianapolis. This plan, which identified 164 historic resources, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



Garfield Park is best known for the conservatory and sunken gardens that were constructed in 1915. Although the original conservatory was replaced in 1954, the relationship of the 10,000 square foot conservatory to the sunken gardens is evident. The gardens include approximately three acres of formal gardens complete with benches, planters, light fixtures, and drinking fountains. The plantings are changed three times a year.

This naturalistic landscape includes more built features than any of the other Kessler designed parks in town. In addition to the conservatory and sunken gardens there is a carriage/driving loop, curving paths, small interurban depot, an amphitheater/bandshell, the community center (1922-now the Garfield Art Center), a multi-level pagoda-shaped shelter with ornate ironwork, pool (filled in 1998, new one constructed), and six historic bridges.

Garfield Park  
2450 South Shelby Street  
Indianapolis, IN  
(317) 327-7221 (office)  
(317) 327-7327 (pool)  
(317) 327-7183 (conservatory)  
<http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPR/Parks/List/Garfield+Park.htm>

### **Crystal Beach Pool & Bathhouse, Madison (Jefferson County)**

The Crystal Beach Pool and Bathhouse were constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) from 1937-1939. The pool is a have circle form designed by a Mr. Hunter. The shallow water started at the curved outer edge and plunged to 9-feet deep at the center portion. A series of five diving boards in the shape of a pyramid and a series of water slides dotted the perimeter of the pool. The water slides were removed in the 1950s and the diving boards in the 1970s. When the complex opened sand bordered the edge of the pool to make it feel more like a beach. Showers were located along the edge of the pool so swimmers could wash off the sand before entering the water. The sandy beach was removed in 1955. A series of porthole lights illuminated the pool for evening swimming. Due to the dangerous combination of the electricity and water, the lighting was removed.

Architect Lester Routt of Vincennes designed the 2-story bathhouse. Constructed of local stone, the bathhouse has a full front porch and upper balcony. The first floor holds the changing rooms and concession stand. Over the years the upstairs was used as a skating rink, dance hall, and meeting space for the local Boys Club.

Crystal Beach is still in use during the summer months. Call for hours and rates.

Crystal Beach Pool  
100 South Broadway Street  
Madison, IN  
812/ 265-8308

### **Otis Park, Bedford (Lawrence County)**

Otis Park began as a farm in the 1860s. The original 1865 Italianate house is still located on the grounds. After the farm failed, there were a series of owners. Local newspaperman Fred Otis acquired the property and in 1915 he donated it to the City of Bedford for a park and golf course.

From 1937-1941 the Works Progress Administration (WPA) set out to beautify the approximately 150 acres of the park/golf course. Since limestone was abundant in the area, the WPA used the stone throughout the park for buildings, bridges, picnic shelters, and rock walls/fencing. The most notable WPA-era feature is the 2-story Neoclassical band shell. Designed by Joe Cezar, it was the only limestone band shell constructed by the WPA.

Otis Park is the largest public park in Bedford and it is adjacent to an 18-hole golf course.

Bedford Parks Department  
Thornton Park  
Bedford, IN 47421  
812/ 275-5692

### **Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport (Spencer County)**

The Lincoln Pioneer Village was created in 1935 to promote the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln lived in southern Indiana during his childhood and adolescence. George Honig, a Lincoln expert in Rockport, suggested the idea of recreating a village in honor of the assassinated President to the local historical society. They supported the idea and requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and later the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Many FERA and WPA projects involved the creation of recreational areas but most were local parks. The reconstruction of early 1800s log cabins for a living history museum was a bit outside the norm.

FERA workers built ten log buildings plus wells, fencing and other period pieces for the complex. The WPA workers added more buildings and extensive landscaping for the village. Although more buildings, including artisan shops and Native American structures, were in the original plan, no additional construction occurred on the grounds.

The Lincoln Pioneer Village was a successful educational and tourist attraction. School groups from all over the state visited the site but by the 1970s the buildings had deteriorated and fewer people were visiting. A series of reconstructions took place in during the mid-1980s and continued into the 1990s. In 1998, the village received funding through the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to restore six of the cabins.

The Lincoln Pioneer Village is open from April-August. Call for hours.

Lincoln Pioneer Village  
Rockport City Park (9<sup>th</sup> & Eureka Road)  
Rockport, IN 47635  
812/ 649-9147  
<http://165.138.11.6/>