Lake Michigan can be dangerous. For your safety, swim in guarded areas only. Pets are strictly prohibited on Swimming Beach.
THE INDIANA DUNES

Visitors can enjoy Indiana Dunes State Park in a wide variety of ways. The park offers picnic shelters and picnic areas, more than 16 miles of hiking trails, a swimming beach, and the Nature Center are available for visitors’ use and are operated with visitor safety in mind. During the summer season, a beach pavilion provides shelter, restrooms with outdoor showers only, a snack bar, and gift shop. Dunes Nature Preserve, encompassing 1,530 acres and located within the boundaries of the state park, provides visitors with an opportunity to explore pristine and unique landscapes.

Indiana Dunes State Park features a wide variety of habitats, including beach, sand dunes, black oak forest, woodland, wetland, and a beach dune shrubland marsh. Together, these areas contain some of the most diverse flora and fauna in the Midwest. Botanists from across the country enjoy studying the unusual collection of plant life. In fact, it was here that Henry Cowles, known to many as the “father of ecological succession,” first defined the stages of succession in the early 1900s. As a result of his work, Indiana Dunes became known as “the birthplace of ecology.”

The dunes provide an opportunity to explore an exciting and ever-changing landscape. In several areas, huge “living” or “moving” dunes are slowly being blown inland, burying forests as they go. A prime example can be seen from Trail 9.

Other interesting features include “tree graveyards” (places where forests have been buried by sand and then, more recently, re-exposed by wind erosion). “Tree graveyards” can be seen in Big Blowout, near Trail 10. The Indiana Dunes area also is renowned throughout the Midwest for its birding. Visit the Nature Center to ask about good birding locations.

Indiana Dunes State Park is surrounded by Indiana Dunes National Park, a federally administered park comprising approximately 15,000 acres. For more information about the National Park, write: Indiana Dunes National Park, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter, IN 46304; or call (219) 926-7561.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- **Birding**—Excellent spring and fall migration opportunities. See Nature Center for current sightings.
- **Camping**—Campground has two comfort stations that are equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. 140 campsites with 50 amp. service can accommodate camping structures up to 50 feet long. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nighttime reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.
- **Concession & Campground Grocery**—Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.
- **Cross-Country Ski Trails**—Ski trails are provided for people with their own equipment. Ski rental is not available.
- **Interpretive Naturalist Service**—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available at Interpretive Services. IN.gov or by calling (219) 926-1390.
- **Nature Center**—Natural and cultural history displays, wildlife observation room, library and audio visual presentations are available.
- **Picnic Areas**—Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and shelters. Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.
- **Refreshment Facilities**—Fast-food service and gift shop are available at the beach pavilion.
- **Swimming**—Swimming permitted in designated areas. Swim at your own risk on duty Free Beach. Restrooms and beach open from Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. Clothing is required within the company’s utility corridor, and was developed with the assistance of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company and the National Park Service.

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

**Trail 2**
- Distance: .75 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate

Provides an opportunity to view succession in dunes area. Excellent for late spring wildflowers, including prickly pear cactus.

**Trail 4**
- Distance: .75 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate

Goes through dunes covered with black oak forest.

**Trail 7**
- Distance: 1.1 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate

Similar to Trail 4. Most direct route from Nature Center to beach.

**Trail 8**
- Distance: 1.5 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate

Goes over the top of the three highest dunes of the Indiana Dunes.

**Trail 9**
- Distance: 3.75 miles
- Difficulty: Medium

Provides best representative view of the dunes. Good view of lake.

**Trail 10**
- Distance: 5.5 miles
- Difficulty: Moderate

Hikers are rewarded by stands of white pine and a “tree graveyard” in Big Blowout. A good morning hike.

**For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov**

FRIENDS OF INDIANA DUNES

Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc., fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the dunes by sponsoring special events and educational programs. For information on membership and upcoming events, contact:

Friends of Indiana Dunes
P.O. Box 166, Beverly Shores, IN 46301
StateParks.IN.gov:2960800.htm
(Click on the “Activities” tab.)

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding is prohibited. Feeding of any kind can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

FRIENDS OF INDIANA DUNES

Resolutions for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Call: 1-866-626-6746
Online: camp.IN.gov
Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Call: 1-877-lodges1 (1-877-563-4371)
Online: IndianaInns.com

For more information, write: Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 N. C.R. 25 East
Chesster, IN 46304-1142
Call: (219) 926-1952
Online: on.in.gov/IndianaDunes

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in main office.

An excellent Sound Guide to the Indiana Dunes is available from Indiana Dunes National Park. The guide is 32 pages and costs $9.00 per copy (plus $2.00 for shipping and handling). To order, call (219) 926-1952.

PICK UP AN INDIANA RECREATION GUIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION.