Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.
limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran problems getting the cut rock over the river to the railroad line.

The turning point in McCormick’s Creek history came in 1888, when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkerwaler, a physician interested in the site’s scenic and restful qualities. Dr. Denkerwaler saw the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs as the perfect location for a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy to escape the city for the peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs. Meanwhile, local residents continued to picnic and hike along the canyon, making the spot a favorite of everyone for recreation.

With the death of Dr. Denkerwaler in 1914, his estate went up for sale at a land auction. Both Oregon County and the State of Indiana were interested in maintaining McCormick’s Creek in its park-like setting, so the land was purchased by the CCC. McCormick’s Creek State Park was dedicated as Indiana’s first state park on July 4, 1916, as part of the state’s centennial celebration.

Canyon Inn opened on its own sanitarium building. A few years later in the early 1920s, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Water changes brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the inn still rests on the original foundations.

Originally a little more than 350 acres, McCormick’s Creek State Park grew to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farmlands by the CCC and as they came up for sale. Much of the park’s building improvements came in the 1930s, when the CCC CCC Civilian Conservation Corps was in the park. The CCC constructed nearly 200 miles of roads, 114 miles of pipelines and over 4 miles of drives. In 1935, when the park campgrounds, Nature Center and swimming pool were added, the park was a delightful combination of history set in modern surroundings.

**THIS IS YOUR PARK**

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public’s use and enjoyment.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts are 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.

**ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

**CAMPING**—Campsites are equipped with modern restrooms, hot and cold water, and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Both Electric and Primitive sites are available. Reservations may be made through the Central Reservation System.

**LOG CABIN & CAMPGROUND**—Log cabins are equipped with beds, linens, gas stove, mini-fridge, and microwave. Cabins have a living room, full bathroom, and a covered porch. The porch outdoor pool is open to inn guests only. No pets allowed. Guest and group room have Wi-fi. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**FAMILY CAMPING**—Each cabin accommodates a maximum of six people and has a living area, bedroom, bathroom, screened-in porch and kitchen. Cabins are available to up to 4 people. Pets are not permitted in the cabin area. Open April - October. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

**GROUP CAMPS**—Each camp, McCormick’s Creek Campground or Canopy Koa, has four sleeping barracks, capacity 25 people each; a large dining hall/kitchen accommodating a maximum of 100 people; and a modern shower house located in the center of both camps. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

**INN**—Guest rooms feature private bath, telephone, cable, satellite TV, Wi-Fi, and air conditioning. The restaurant is open to the public and serves three meals, seven days a week. The inn’s outdoor pool is open to inn guests only. No pets allowed. Guest and group room have Wi-fi. Reservations are available through the inn and online.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Open year-round, and designed on a “Please Touch—Gently” theme. It includes interpretive exhibits, nature games and quizzes, and a full range of naturalist-led activities. Program schedule changes at the Nature Center, (812) 829-4324. Online: DNR.in.gov

**PICNIC AREAS**—Include tables, grills, educational displays, playground equipment and playfields. In addition, McCormick’s Creek has 8 open shelters and 4 recreation buildings. Reservations for shelters are available online or by calling 1-866-622-6746. Online: DNR.in.gov

**RECREATION CENTER**—Complete with indoor and outdoor facilities. Indoor playing includes volleyball and basketball.

**STATE PARK**—Trail rides and Hayrides offered. For reservation information, contact McCormick’s Creek State Park. For more information, visit McCormick’s Creek State Park.

**SADDLE BARN**—Ride trails and Hayrides offered. For reservation information, contact McCormick’s Creek State Park. For more information, visit McCormick’s Creek State Park.

**TENNIS COURTS**—Lighted for night playing. Located behind Canyon Inn.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

• Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, or bird and wild animal. Do NOT gather limbers, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural habitat.
• Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or uncocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
• Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on leash. No dogs or cats are allowed on pools or parks designated for children.
• Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
• Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, and park and ride area speed limits when driving through park.
• Swimming is limited to places and times set by the DNR.
• Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
• Report any damage or breakage to the park office.
• All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadways.
• Bicycles are permitted on all park trails.
• Bicycles must be used only on roadways and are not allowed on hiking trails.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

**DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY**

**Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)**—boating, camping, fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnic area, shelter house, picnic area.

**Morgan-Monroe State Forest**—boating, camping, fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnic area, shelter house, picnic area.

**Owen-Putnam State Forest**—boating, camping, hiking, bridle trails, hunting, mountain bike, trapping, fishing.

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

**CANYON INN OPEN ALL YEAR**


Call: (1-877) 922-6966

Online: DNR.in.gov/mccormickcreeksresrep

Saddie Barn: (812) 829-4884

**FOR WRITE INFORMATION**

White: McCormick’s Creek State Park

250 McCormick’s Creek Park Road

Spencer, IN 47460

Call: (812) 829-2235

Online: DNR.in.gov/mccormickcreeksresrep

**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 the main office.

**STATE PARKS**

For a list of park visits, event interpretive services IN.gov

**DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS**

**TRAIL & DESCRIPTION**

**DISTANCE**

**DIFFICULTY**

One – .8 miles Easy

A loop trail that begins between family cabins 6 and 14, loops through young and mature forest stands on a single-track trail. Peden Farm site is accessible by service road.

Three – 8.1 miles Rugged

A loop trail that begins at the Wolf Cave Parking Area, enters Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, loops through Beech Maple forest, crosses Little Lantern, and offers access to Wolf Cave before ending near the Wolf Cave parking lot. Six – Easy

Begins beside Beech Grove Shelter, travels through dense forest and ends in the Class A campground between campsites 13 and 15.

Seven – 8.1 miles Rugged

A loop trail that begins across from Wolf Cave parking lot, and travels along the canyon rim before descending toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk. Fishing is permitted on the river.

Eight – 1 mile Accessible

A paved trail that begins in the campground between campsites 14 and 15, and proceeds through woodlands and the Pine Bluff picnic area, ending at the pool and concession stand.

Nine – 12 miles Easy

Trail begins in the Deer Run parking area and loops through young and mature forest stands on a single-track trail. Please stay on marked trails.

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.**

**STATE PARKS**

Founded in 1916 as Indiana’s first state park, McCormick’s Creek has a rich history. Its earliest history is reflected in its geology: fossilized coral reefs are found in the area as a shallow, tropical ocean, bits of granite brought here from Canada share our glacial story, and fire artifacts tell part of our Native American history. McCormick’s Creek and surrounding area were known for hunting grounds for the Delaware, Miami, and Shawnee before their forced removal. In 1818, the area’s first settler, John McCormick, homesteaded nearly 100 acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. Since it was then common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, the area became McCormick’s Creek. Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, but the water level and force were never great enough to make them profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened

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**Photo Credits:**

Stump on the 4th of July. All photos on this page are property of © DNR 2018.

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**Additional Information:**

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are limited to 14 consecutive nights. Both Electric and primitive sites are available. Pets are not permitted in the inn area between family cabins 11 and 12. Also offers access to the Quarry Loop Trail for observation of the Old State House Quarry. There are no bridges crossing the creek. Fluctuating creek levels may make areas of the trail seasonally inaccessible.

Four – 1.4 miles Moderate

A loop trail that begins across from Wolf Cave parking lot, and along the canyon rim before descending toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk. Fishing is permitted on the river.

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**BLUESMITH INN**

Located on the grounds of McCormick’s State Park, Bluestone Inn offers accommodations in a unique setting. The inn’s history is reflected in its geology: fossilized coral reefs are found in the area as a shallow, tropical ocean, bits of granite brought here from Canada share our glacial story, and fire artifacts tell part of our Native American history. McCormick’s Creek and surrounding area were known for hunting grounds for the Delaware, Miami, and Shawnee before their forced removal. In 1818, the area’s first settler, John McCormick, homesteaded nearly 100 acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. Since it was then common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, the area became McCormick’s Creek. Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, but the water level and force were never great enough to make them profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened

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**SADDLE BARN**

Ride trails and Hayrides offered. For reservation information, contact McCormick’s Creek State Park. For more information, visit McCormick’s Creek State Park. Site: State parks.