• Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
• Fires shall be built only in designated places.
• Camping is permitted only in the campground.
• A person who possesses a pet must attend the animal in receptacles provided for that purpose.

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

Ferdinand State Forest

— Join us for scheduled strolls as well as a variety of programs.
— Explore the world of natural resources and Patoka Lake's heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.
— Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover, wildlife habitat requirements of plants and wildlife. A “Birdwatching Spur” is keyed to numbered posts is available for this self-guided interpretive trail.

Stewart SRA, the Nature Center is open year-round and provides an outstanding place for sightseeing and recreation. The beautiful forest setting, unique landscapes, and a variety of programs highlight the beauty of this property. The Nature Center includes an indoor exhibit, a museum quality display of Indiana's wildlife, nature trails, and a children’s demonstration area. The Nature Center is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. A “Birdwatching Spur” is available for self-guided tours.

Logan Nature Center

— Join us for scheduled strolls as well as a variety of programs.
— Explore the world of natural resources and the Logan Nature Center’s heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.
— Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover, wildlife habitat requirements of plants and wildlife. A “Birdwatching Spur” is keyed to numbered posts is available for this self-guided interpretive trail.

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

8.2 mile—Rugged—a challenging hike that gives an overview of the entire property. Average hiking time is three to four hours.

2 mile—Moderate—a trail that sounds inviting, with a bench on rock overhangs, ferns and pines. A “Birdwatching Spur” is available for self-guided tours.

6.5 miles—Join us for scheduled strolls as well as a variety of programs.
— Explore the world of natural resources and Patoka Lake’s heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.
— Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover, wildlife habitat requirements of plants and wildlife. A “Birdwatching Spur” is available for self-guided tours.

DEER HUNTING

All hunters in the area are required to register at a hunter check-in station. —contact property office for current quotas.

PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS

There are 10 launch ramps located on the lake. Two major ramps—French Lick and Hoosier Hills—are open to the public. All others are for DNR staff and special events.

SAFETY ZONES

Beach areas are marked by red flags. Safety zones are open to swimming. Public use is prohibited.

Lake to serve your boating needs—Patoka Lake Marina in the Newton-Stewart SRA, and Hoosier Hills State to provide fuel, rentals and a full range of amenities.

DEER AND SQUIRREL HUNTING

Deer and squirrel are abundant in the area. All hunters are required to register at a hunter check-in station.

BEACH

Beach—Stevens Beach and French Lick Beach are controlled by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals 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.

HOTEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

DNR-operated cabins can be made online or by phone. A short loop trail begins just across from the Nature Center’s front door. Try this trail if your time is limited and rock overhangs, ferns and pines sound inviting.

Marina in the Newton-Stewart SRA, and Hoosier Hills State to provide fuel, rentals and a full range of amenities. The Nature Center’s front door. Try this trail if your time is limited and rock overhangs, ferns and pines sound inviting.

FRANKLIN, IN 47513

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

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM

Reservations 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: 1-866-6campIN (1-866-622-6746)

Online: camp.IN.gov

For more information:
Write: Patoka Lake
3084 North Dillard Rd
Birdseye, IN 47513

Call: 812-685-2447 (Nature Center)

Online: on.IN.gov/patokalake

DNR Law Enforcement Dispatch
(24 hour) 812-837-9536

DNR Properties Nearby

Patoka Lake, the second-largest reservoir in the state, is located in Dubois, Crawford and Orange counties in southern Indiana on the Patoka River. Patoka Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of Oct. 27, 1965. Construction began in July 1972, with the dam completed in January 1979, and initial recreational use began in October 1979. The lake is 3,237 acres in size, 21 miles long, and has 52 miles of shoreline. Patoka Lake is blanketed with a large body of water that is primarily due to the mineral springs in the area. French Lick established in the 1800s gained from the springs. The mineral springs were utilized to create a healthful environment for those who sought relief from various ailments.

French Lick Springs State Park

— Join us for scheduled strolls as well as a variety of programs.
— Explore the world of natural resources and Patoka Lake’s heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.
— Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover, wildlife habitat requirements of plants and wildlife. A “Birdwatching Spur” is available for self-guided tours.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE

— The program, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to the public. DNR provides publications on the laws of the state, natural history, fishing, camping, hunting, boating and other outdoor activities. The department also administers the state parks, forests, and marinas. The department’s mission is to conserve Indiana’s natural resources, Executive Office, 800 Washington Street, Indian, IN 47513, (812) 232-9811.

Ferdinand State Forest—boating, camping, boat rental, packages for 24 hour, 1 day, 2 days, 3 days, 4 days, 5 days, 6 days, 7 days, 8 days, 9 days, 10 days. The program, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to the public. DNR provides publications on the laws of the state, natural history, fishing, camping, hunting, boating and other outdoor activities. The department also administers the state parks, forests, and marinas. The department’s mission is to conserve Indiana’s natural resources, Executive Office, 800 Washington Street, Indian, IN 47513, (812) 232-9811.

Travel Information

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