Beechwood Nature Preserve - Along the east edge of the park, Trail 8 crosses the border and enters the 89-acre, Beechwood Nature Preserve, a unit of the ACRES Land Trust. A 1.5-mile loop continues over rolling hills of old meadows now sporting thickets of gray dogwoods and remnants of an old apple orchard. From the loop, a short section of the trail continues to the Beechwood parking lot at State Road 127. A boardwalk traverses a lowland swamp, featuring rare yellow birch, red maple, blue beech and skunk cabbage.

Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.

TRAIL TABLE

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HELL’S POINT CHALLENGE

- The challenge begins & ends at the Nature Center.
- Length is approximately 8 miles.
- Difficulty is moderate/rugged. Includes going up 84 stair steps to Hell’s Point.
- Photograph all six waypoints along the route and show the Nature Center staff upon returning to receive a finishers souvenir.
- Take plenty of water. The last place to fill water bottles is at the Spring Shelter!
AN ICE AGE LEGACY

During an age when the climate was approximately 10 degrees cooler, more snow fell in the winter than melted in the summer. As an accumulation piled up over thousands of years, it formed an ice sheet that flowed from Canada over northern Indiana. That glacier began melting 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. The landscape we enjoy today resulted.

That glacier was the last one of four to cover Indiana. The Saginaw lobe of the massive, one-mile-thick, ice flow was the last to leave a lasting impression on the face of the lands of Pokagon State Park.

While walking on many of the park trails, you will notice piles of rocks, and individual rocks, that seemingly came from nowhere. These are known as glacial erratics. They are part of the total mass of earth brought down from the glacial ice. These blocks of glacial debris or glacial till. There are more in Steuben County than in any other county in the state. All are natural and all were formed by the glaciers moving and gouging glaciers. Where sunken blocks of ice broke away as the glaciers melted, sit today’s kettle-hole lakes. Lake Emma on Trail 3 is a kettle lake.

The variations of plant and animal species, and the topography that they cover, is typical of glacial regions. For more information, in many ways, resembles pasture; you may expect to find farther north. Although relatively woodlands, pine groves, old fields, and meadowlands.

WHERE TO FIND IT

You may expect to find farther north. Although relatively

WINTER SPORTS

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visit.

Bb gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked in a receptacles provided for that purpose.

Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.

Wearing or allowing possession of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.

Camping is permitted only in the camping ground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision. Each campsite must have one responsible member at least 18 years of age.

Fires shall be built only in designated places.

Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.

Motorists should observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.

Swimming is illegal in lakes and streams and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.

Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.

Report lost or found articles to the park office.

All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Studded tires are prohibited.

Metal detectors allowed on main beach between Labor Day and Memorial Day with written permit from property manager.

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

Please let wild animals remain wild.

Fishing forSport Fishing for 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.

RESOURCES

For more information about resources available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, ancestry, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.

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