

National Public Lands Day At Indiana State Parks



Memories made naturally.

September 26 (and more on the 27!), 2015

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the country. Will you join us?



National Public Lands Day

Below is a sampling of the many volunteer programs and other activities at DNR properties during National Public Lands Day Weekend. For current listings, see www.InterpretiveServices.IN.gov, call the specific property you plan to visit or ask the gate attendant when you arrive.

Saturday, September 26

Brown County State Park - Wildflower Meadow Work Day. 10:00 am. Volunteers will assist in collecting wildflower seeds in the park to spread in our wildflower meadow restoration project. Hand tools provided. Wear work clothes and gloves, bring snacks, water and sunscreen. Friends of Brown County State Park will be available to offer information about their group and how to join. Meet at Nature Center.

Clifty Falls State Park-Tidy the Trails. 10 am-4 pm. Would you like to be part of helping keep our trails beautiful? Stop by the Nature Center anytime between 10 am and 4 pm to adopt a trail for the day. We will provide you with trash bags to take with you on your hike.

Chain O'Lakes- Park Heritage Day. 1 pm-3 pm. The park will host events to celebrate its heritage and the 100th birthday of the Stanely Schoolhouse. Come and meet many of the volunteers that help keep the schoolhouse open. Be sure to pick up a volunteer brochure to learn how you can help the park continue its great heritage!

Charlestown State Park- Trail Clean up and Repair - 3:00 pm. This year's unprecedented flooding has left quite an impact Trail 6 at Charlestown State Park. Volunteer some of your time on National Public Lands day and help clean and repair one of the parks most popular trails! Meet at the Charlestown State Park Boat Ramp.

Falls of the Ohio State Park - Garden Blitz. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Volunteers needed to rehab our largest public garden. We will weed, trim, transplant, plant, restack rock, haul away garden debris, spread mulch, etc. Participants will assemble in picnic area behind the Interpretive Center. Wear old clothes and garden gloves. If you have small clippers, trowels or garden shovels, feel free to bring to use.

Harmonie State Park-Trail Work Day. 10 am. Volunteers are needed to do a trail work project. Meet at the campground gate house .

Lieber State Recreation Area – Gardening for Smokey. 10:00 am. Volunteers can clean up and weed the flower beds, at the Nature Center and Smokey’s Garden. Please sign-in at the main gate, and meet at the Nature Center.

Mississinewa Miami SRA -Volunteer Day. 9 am. Volunteers should meet at the main office and plan to bring their work gloves, insect repellent, sun screen, wide brim hats, water bottle, and sack lunch; no chainsaws please. For more information and to register, please contact 260-468-2127.

Monroe Lake- Furs. Fins. Float. Fun! 2:00 pm -5:00 pm. Stop by Paynetown State Recreation Area for Demonstrations, hands-on activities, and “show and tell” displays will highlight some of the fun activities that you can experience at Monroe Lake! A great opportunity for both kids and adults to explore different types of hunting, fishing, and water recreation sports. Ask how you can volunteer to help at Monroe Lake.

Mounds State Park- Archaeology Day. 12 pm-3 pm. Come to the park and learn more about Archaeology, both prehistoric and historic, and learn ways you can volunteer and help Mounds State Park.

O’Bannon Woods State Park- Volunteer Call-out. 10 am. We are always looking for new volunteers. Join us for volunteer orientation and tour of the Nature Center. Meet at Nature Center. This will be a question and answer time and to hear about what volunteer opportunities are at the park.

Patoka Reservoir- Trail Clean Up. 9:30 am. Volunteers needed to cleaning up trails. Participants will be assigned positions for cutting back briars, small limbs, removing debris from trail floor, and even trash pickup. Meet at the Nature Center. Water and lemonade will be provided for all who volunteer.

Pokagon State Park – Beach Litter Clean-Up. 10:00 am. Join the Naturalist at the Pokagon’s Main Beach Parking Lot where we will scan the area all the way to the water looking for trash. We will then meet on the Beach to discuss ways we can create fun bubble makers from items that we often throw away.

Potato Creek – Stop in to the nature center to learn about the Friends of Potato Creek and other volunteer opportunities.

Prophetstown State Park - Prairie Projects Day. 10 am to 12 pm. Volunteers will be assigned various projects including seed harvesting, seed sorting, invasive removal (hand pulling and cutting), and more. Tools, gloves, and refreshments provided. Long sleeves, pants, and hats recommended. Meet at Visitor Center.

Salamonie Reservoir- Volunteer Day. 9 am. Volunteers should Meet at the Interpretive Center and plan to bring their work gloves, insect repellent, sun screen, wide brim hats, water bottle, and sack lunch; no chainsaws please. For more information and to register, please contact 260-468-2127.

Shakamak State Park – Friends of Shakamak Membership and Volunteer Drive. 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Come join us Saturday September 26 during our Friends of Shakamak Membership and Volunteer Drive. The booth will be set up from 9 to 12 in Jasonville, IN at the corner of Lawton St. and SR 48. We will be collecting plastic bottle caps, plastic lids and plastic pill container lids to put recycled benches around the park. Join us for the Jasonville Homecoming Parade at 12 noon. Don't forget to check stop by the booth to dunk your favorite or not so favorite local "celebrities" in our Dunking Booth. For more information contact 812-665-2158.

Tippecanoe River State Park - Waterfowl Area Trail Work Day- 9am. Your help would be appreciated as we work to improve this walking trail by clearing the path. With the tools provided to cut back briars or pull invasives. This wetland area provides a natural habitat for various waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammal. At times North American river otters and bald eagles might be seen in this area. We will provide cold water. Please bring work gloves and bug spray. Meet the naturalist at the parking lot by the Waterfowl Area.

Turkey Run State Park - Workday at the Park! 10am. Give something back to the parks you love and help clean up the trails or eradicate non-native plants. Bring work gloves, drinking water & a sack lunch. A photo scavenger hunt will be built in, with prizes afterwards at the nature center. Great family activity. Meet at the nature center.

Whitewater Memorial State Park-Clean up the Garden at the Naturalist Cabin. 11:00 am. Volunteers can come and help clean up the flower bed at the Naturalist Cabin.

Sunday, September 27

McCormick's Creek State Park - Friends of McCormick's Creek & Owen Co. YMCA 5K and 10K Trail Run. Sunday, Sept. 27, 2:00 pm. The Friends help to set-up and staff the event along with YMCA employees & volunteers. Come watch the Friends in action and learn how you can become a "Friend". Runners and walkers are invited to register online at <http://www.mag7raceseries.com/>, print a mail-in entry form from <http://www.owencountymca.org/>, or stop by the Owen County Family YMCA to register. Early registration discounts available until September 13. Race day registrations will also be accepted on site.

Ouabache State Park- Park Clean Up. Sunday, Sept. 27- 1-4 pm. Volunteers are invited to bring brooms, hand trimmers, rakes, work gloves, insect repellent, sun screen, wide brim hats, water bottle; no chainsaws please to help clean up shelters and trails. For more information and to register, please contact 260-468-2127. Meet at the main office.

All Weekend

Hardy Lake- Raptor Days Celebration- September 25, 26, 27. Hardy Lake celebrates National Public Lands Day during their annual Hardy Lake Raptor Days. The Friends of Hardy Lake host this event that focuses on native birds of prey. This is a great opportunity to see the Hardy Lake Friends Group in action and learn how they help the Lake and the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center. Be sure to pick up a Friends of Hardy Lake brochure to learn how you can become a "Friend". For more information 812-794-2244 or lgrow@dnr.in.gov

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Monroe Lake- Camouflage the Duck Blinds -Saturday, October 3. 9:00 am. *Program Location: Meet at the Northfork Check Station located east of Bloomington (off of State Road 46) by the intersection of Kent Road and McGowan Road.* Youth and adults interested in waterfowl hunting and waterfowl observation are invited to help clean, repair, and camouflage the waterfowl hunting blinds in the Stillwater-Northfork Waterfowl area. The day will include a short training session on waterfowl blinds and our waterfowl management program. Lunch will be provided for all participants! *Stay as late as 4:00p to help out...* Bring work gloves and any hand tools you feel will be helpful. Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather. *Donations of vegetables or meat for the stew at lunch are welcome but not necessary.* Registration is requested (but not necessary – last minute volunteers are welcome!). Please call the Monroe Lake Office at 812-837-9546 between 8am and 4pm (ask for Rex Watters).

This then, is the value of our public estate. That we have set aside forever a part of the original domain. That by leaving it in its natural condition we have made the past intelligible to our and to coming generations. That we have attracted visitors from other states and shown them the beauty of our own. That we have found a measure of appreciation for the good of our day and an offset in part for some of its evils. That we have strengthened citizenship and helped create the appreciation of the soil which cannot but increase our attachment to our own state and to the nation. That we have tried in our State to educate the masses of our people to look upon conservation not merely as a means of self-preservation; a practical conserving of our resources, but also as a need for the appreciation and uplift of the soul of man.



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*- Richard Lieber, 1923,
Founder of the Indiana State Park System*