

## 2010 Successes and Facility Upgrades Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs



We hope you enjoy taking a look at some of the projects our staff completed in 2010. Most of the projects have a direct impact on the facilities you use and enjoy when you visit in 2011. A few events are mentioned as well. Our special events calendar is filled with great opportunities for inexpensive fun and family memory making this year. Visit [www.STATEPARKS.in.gov](http://www.STATEPARKS.in.gov) for details.

You may notice that much of the work completed in 2010 did not involve the construction of new buildings or major infrastructure overhauls. Our division has over 2000 buildings, 600 miles of trails, 631 hotel/lodge rooms, 75 marinas, 16 swimming pools, 15 beaches, almost 8400 campsites, over 200 shelters, 160 or so playgrounds and 149 cabins.....that's a lot of maintenance, and in these tight fiscal conditions, most of our time and energy has been focused on basic facility care.

We have donors, partners and volunteers who help us accomplish a variety of projects. Grant funding assisted with projects such as the new exhibits at Indiana Dunes. Our friends groups contributed thousands of dollars and hours for projects and events. The YHCC program brought us young adults again in 2010. They worked in a variety of general maintenance projects (painting, roofing, etc.) and on improving over 250 miles of trails and constructing 11 miles of new trails and removing invasive plants on over 2253 acres. And finally, we have creative and dedicated staff who do all they can to find ways to stretch the dollars that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program as far as we can. We want to provide you with a great experience during every visit!

Enjoy this snapshot of some of the work we did in 2010 – and know that there are hundreds of other projects and events that are not mentioned here that are also designed to manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources and history of Indiana's state parks and reservoirs.

Your Indiana state parks and reservoirs are a great value, both in cost and in serving as great places to get healthy, relax in the outdoors and create great stories and memories for the future. Get outside with your family and friends – you'll be glad you did. We'll see you on the trail in 2011!

### Brookville/Whitewater Complex

- One of the family cabins got a new roof.
- The Mounds beach shower house was painted.

### Brown County State Park

- Park staff are using a THINK! electric vehicle to save money on fuel and reduce emissions.
- Broken and unlevel concrete sidewalks at the comfort station in Taylor Ridge campground were replaced.
- Bulletin boards were rebuilt and replaced in several locations.
- Flat screen TVs were added in all guest rooms at Abe Martin Lodge.

### **Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)**

- Several new displays were added at the nature center, including taxidermy mounts and family games. The Friends of Cagles Mill Lake built a 'Sensory Garden', landscaped at the nature center and built a storage building.
- A new firewood storage building was added.
- SCI-REMC planted trees and installed bluebird boxes along power line easements.
- The hilltop shelter received new siding.

### **Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)**

- A new potable water plant came on-line in 2010.
- Deteriorating sections of boat ramps at Raccoon, Hollandsburg and Mansfield were replaced.
- The Walker Boat Ramp was reconstructed with a new entryway, ramp surface, parking area, toilet and an A.D.A. accessible loading ramp.
- The Raccoon SRA entrance and other sections of the main SRA road were resurfaced.

### **Chain O'Lakes State Park**

- New single kayaks are now rentable at the boat rental.
- Beach rest rooms will be open extended hours (May-October, 8am-8pm), providing a longer season for picnics and hikers.
- Three new drinking water wells were installed, including two 8" replacement wells at over 240 feet deep to serve the campground and a new unique hand pump well at the Youth Tent area.
- The main park roads were repaved.
- Firewood is now for sale year round inside the park at a cheaper price of \$3.00 per bundle.
- The Sand Lake north vista was enhanced, providing great lake views from the park road.
- Two new campfire rings with benches were installed in the cabin playfield/playground area.
- A new resource management project to improve the oak and hickory tree stand on the hillside by the boat rental was initiated, which included the use of prescribed fire this spring.

### **Charlestown State Park**

- The Portersville historic iron bridge has been relocated to Fourteenmile Creek, providing eventual access to Rose Island. Estimated completion is in June or July.
- A new trail is under design/construction for Rose Island.
- Two new special events are on the schedule, including Raptor Day (April 9) and Charlestown Under the Stars (October 1).

### **Clifty Falls State Park**

- Clifty Inn got new lounge/dining furniture, and installed flat screen TVs in all guest rooms.
- Campground road repaving by INDOT is scheduled for Spring, 2011, and should be completed by Memorial Day.
- Campsite pads were upgraded.
- Roadside barrier posts were removed in some locations, opening up nature area settings and reducing maintenance costs.
- Roadside woody invasive removal is underway, re-establishing natural areas; enhancing security, and optimizing wildlife viewing.

### **Falls of the Ohio State Park**

- The design for \$5.5 million exhibit and entrance replacement were completed.
- A contract was awarded to an artist to develop new lobby artwork, which will be installed by August, 2011.
- Projectors for use in theatre were replaced and the introductory movie is back up and running on three screens.
- Initial construction of replica of the McGee Cabin, which was occupied by George Rogers Clark's slaves, was completed

### **Fort Harrison**

- "The Bunker" in the basement of The Garrison was renovated with anticipated opening as a bar and restaurant in 2011.
- Construction progress was made by the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association on the first phase (east of Glenn Road) of the mountain bike trail project.
- The second annual Hoosier Outdoor Experience was hosted in September 2011 with 20,000 participants in over 50 hands-out outdoor activities led by DNR staff and volunteer partners.
- The Museum of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Warfare, designed to interpret the equipment and people and their stories from military action in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, opened. This facility is managed by a nonprofit organization in a unique partnership with the State.

### **Hardy Lake**

- The public courtesy dock was repaired at Alpha Marina to better allow for unloading/loading.
- A new 3 panel Public Information Kiosk was built at the Alpha Marina.
- The bird mews (cages) at the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Rehab Center were painted and perches were improved.

### **Harmonie State Park**

- Two and a half more miles of mountain bike trail were opened for riders to enjoy.
- A new trail to an cemetery was constructed by Eagle Scout Nathan Wiley.
- A 2011 concert series has been scheduled, with a free performance each month.
- New mulch has been installed on playgrounds.
- New main electric lines installed in the campground should eliminate frequent power outages.

### **Indiana Dunes State Park**

- New state-of-the-art nature center exhibits were installed and are getting lots of use.
- The nature center began offering web conferencing and live streaming programs.
- The Dunes Kankakee Bicycle Trail construction to the state park continues, and will provide protected bike lane access to the park when completed.
- Phase II of the daylighting of Dunes Creek (removal of asphalt and materials covering the creek) will be completed in early summer.
- Landscaping has been completed for some shelter and campground areas.
- The park is a partner in "Beyond the Beach," an initiative of the local convention and visitors' bureaus, and a partner in the newly created Lake Michigan Water Trail.

### **Lincoln State Park**

- The upper bath house in the Lake Lincoln Campground got an interior remodel.
- Lincoln State Park Nature Center moved from an old storage building to the completely rebuilt basement of the group camp recreation building. With new hands-on exhibits and media, it is now open year round.
- A new modern restroom was completed in Gobblers Run campground.
- Lake Lincoln beach was expanded to increase depth and create more space for swimmers.
- Lincoln Amphitheater will feature movies in May, June, July and September this year.

### **McCormick's Creek State Park**

- The B-loop campground comfort station interior was rehabbed.
- The Hillcrest Recreation Building received an interior makeover.
- Forty guest rooms at Canyon Inn were painted.
- Two inn rooms (118 and 120) at Canyon Inn received ADA upgrades.
- Windows, doors, and exterior siding were replaced on the campground gate house.

### **Mississinewa Lake**

- Improvements were made to the seasonal campground, including a new electronic traffic control gate, a new launching ramp, new security lights at the mooring area and new wifi service. This seasonal campground will be in its first full year of operation.
- Property staff and the local utility teamed up to upgrade transformers and distribution panels in the modern campground.
- Ventilation power fans have been installed in the 8 camper cabins.

### **Monroe Lake**

- A new entry gate house was completed at Fairfax SRA.
- A flotation replacement at the Paynetown SRA gas dock will improve stability.
- Electric service was replaced to the Paynetown gas dock.
- Four new bridges were installed on the Blue Bird Trail at Paynetown SRA.
- An additional accessible duck blind was completed for hunters.
- Two new bridges were installed on the Big Oak Trail at Fairfax SRA.
- A bird viewing area was established in the Fairfax SRA beach area.
- Through a co-operative effort with the Monroe County EMS, severe weather warning sirens were established at both Fairfax SRA and Paynetown SRA.

### **Mounds State Park**

- A new bird enclosure will display a seasonally a nonreleasable bald eagle later this summer.
- A self-guided brochure has been developed for a Mounds History Hike.
- The park will offer expanded day camps due to their increasing popularity.
- Bronnenberg House tours will begin during the first weekend in May. The home has some newly donated furnishings and a newly rebuilt woodshed.

### **O'Bannon Woods State Park**

- Benches were purchased for the accessible trail, funded by a Kellogg grant from the Harrison County Community Foundation.
- A new horse trail map is now available for riders to purchase and use.
- An Adventure Hiking Trail overnight shelter was reconstructed by a family of volunteers.
- A new accessible CXT pit toilet is now available in the Ohio River Picnic Area.
- Mountain bike and hiking trail improvements continue with volunteer work by both Hoosier and Kentucky Mountain Bike Associations.
- A two seat outhouse was constructed (for exhibit only, not use) at the Pioneer Farmstead.

### **Ouabache State Park**

- Several campground improvements were made, including pouring concrete under fire rings, adding gravel added to campsites around pads and fire rings and adding a campground host site and host for 2011.
- The wood decking is being replaced on the popular firetower.
- The park has joined forces with the Upper Wabash Interpretive services to improve interpretive services at Ouabache.

### **Patoka Lake**

- Work continues on the Morey Cabin, with installation of windows and some furnishings.
- A log smoke house at the original Morey cabin site has been moved to the property for reconstruction.
- 1500 linear feet of asphalt bike trail was replaced with concrete surface, and the work continues on this project.

### **Pokagon State Park**

- History enthusiasts and long-time park visitors will appreciate new, wooden, shake-shingle rooftops on all the five Civilian Conservation Corps-built drinking fountain shelter and on the roof of the CCC group camp dining hall. These replace the historically inaccurate asphalt shingles from earlier renovations and returns these structures to their original luster.
- Also new is a purple martin housing complex at the Potawatomi Inn Beach, courtesy of volunteer and local martin enthusiast, Brad Stevens.

### **Potato Creek State Park**

- The restoration of an historic spring house was completed with the assistance of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park. A display about the spring house was added to the nature center.
- A new  $\frac{3}{4}$  Friends Wetland Trail and parking lot were constructed, providing access to one of Potato Creek's many restored wetlands.
- Spur trails in the campground & cabin area received new stone.
- New appliances were added in the family cabins, including microwaves.
- Several cabins and comfort stations were re-roofed.
- A unique bank stabilization project using native (on property) materials was completed along Worster Lake. The project will improve fishing access and prevent shoreline erosion.

### **Prophetstown State Park**

- Work continues on improving the natural habits of a large floodplain, including wetland restoration and enhancement, bottomland forest replacement, and stream bank stabilization. This exciting project is in partnership with INDOT and more information can be obtained at the park office.
- A new basketball court is in place using a large concrete pad leftover from a large pole barn that was removed a couple of years ago.
- Structures and facilities were painted and stained using a darker stain.
- Twenty acres of new prairie will be planted this spring. Each area will have over 5 species of grasses and over 25 species of wildflowers that will be visible in a couple of years.
- The red barn by the fishing pond was removed. This area will be restored to its original pre-settlement condition in the next couple of years.
- An area playfield is being installed near the campground where guests can play baseball or a game of Frisbee.

### **Salamonie Lake**

- Many of our shade trees in the modern campgrounds were removed due to EAB infestation, and new trees were planted to replace them using funds donated by Hoosiers who voted for Indiana to receive Odwalla donations in their plant-a-tree program.
- New brush pile fish structures were installed with GPS locations noted. We are getting good reports on improved fishing over these structures.
- New special events were instituted, including the Christmas in July Event.
- The water tower in Lost Bridge West was rehabbed and repainted.
- The Bloodroot and Kintionki Mountain Bike Trails are cleaned and ready to go, with maintenance making the routes clearer. Backpack campsites are waiting on spring campers.
- A new, frequently-requested trail map showing bridle trails is available, connecting Lost Bridge West with Salamonie River State Forest.

### **Shakamak State Park**

- The Friends of Shakamak State Park are launching this spring, and hosting a "Hound Hike".
- The family cabins all received a new coat of paint.
- The property is making a significant effort to increase volunteer opportunities this year, and new volunteers are welcome.

### **Spring Mill State Park**

- Spring Mill Inn has new furniture in some guest rooms.
- Park staff installed new bathroom light fixtures in various guest rooms.
- Park staff are using a THINK! electric vehicle to save money on fuel and reduce emissions and generating a lot of interest from guests.
- Two new trails were opened at Cave River Valley and new wayside signs were installed.
- A new counter and cabinets were installed at the camp store. A line of self-service items will be available to customers ranging from coffee to frozen fruit juice.
- A year-long archaeological excavation of the Pioneer Village leather shop sub-floor was completed.

## **Summit Lake**

- Many acres of exotics were removed, including invasives in the nature preserve which was replanted in native prairie at no cost to the park.
- Modern restrooms received new glassboard, fixtures were reworked and new roofs added.
- A firebreak around the entire property line was completed to assist in the protection from wildfire and provide access in emergencies.

## **Tippecanoe River State Park**

- New pavement was installed in the campground.
- The removal of trees and shrubs at road intersections, the waterfowl area, and horse trail crossings resulted in improved safety and visibility.
- An access lane and parking area were added for Rent-a-Camp Cabins 3, 4, and 5.
- An outdoor overhead light was added at the Main Office.

## **Turkey Run/Shades Complex**

- Improvements to the Olympic pool include a repaired pool liner, improvements to the pool deck and repairs to mechanical fixtures.
- New paint and window improvements were made at Turkey Run Inn.
- Multiple water valve replacements across the properties have been completed.
- Improvements were made to the Cox Ford Canoe Access Site.
- New state-of-the-art exhibits were installed in the nature center.
- Planning was instituted for the restoration of the Salmon Lusk Home kitchen. It will be funded through donations from visitors for tours, through gifts from the Friends of Turkey Run State Park and through grants.
- The Pine Hills Nature Preserve parking lot was relocated to the inside of Shades State Park from its former site along State Road 234. A new trail was constructed from the parking lot to provide access to Pine Hills.
- A new paved road in the vicinity of the old airstrip at Shades State Park is now open for use.
- A road extension leads to the new Pine Hills NP parking lot.
- A major staircase structure was replaced on trail #2 at Shades.
- A new well pump and motor were installed for the large fresh water well at Shades that supplies fresh water for all of Shades State Park.

## **Versailles State Park**

- A new park office was dedicated and opened with cost-sharing between the park and the Division of Law Enforcement.
- The first "Iron Mike" Civilian Conservation Corps commemorative statue in Indiana was installed outside the new park office. Funds for this project were raised by the Ripley County Historical Society.
- Maintenance and improvements were made to several miles of mountain bike trails.
- Erosion control work was completed on several miles of horse trails.
- Hiking trails were evaluated for erosion and reroutes/improvements were made in several areas.