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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2016



Enjoy this snapshot of some of the work we have done and will be doing to prepare for your visits in 2016. There are many other small projects and events not listed that also help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.

You won't see a lot of new construction or major infrastructure overhauls, although there are some projects completed or underway to enhance campgrounds, restrooms and trails. We have more than 2,000 buildings, 700 miles of trails, 636 hotel/lodge rooms, 17 marinas, 75 launching ramps, 17 swimming pools, 15 beaches, 7,701 campsites, more than 200 shelters, 160 or so playgrounds and 150 cabins in Indiana State Parks. That's a lot of maintenance, and much of our time is focused on that basic facility care.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers who help us with projects. Our friends groups contributed thousands of dollars and hours for projects and events. Creative and dedicated employees stretch the dollars that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

Our goal is to provide you with a great experience during every visit—to help you and your family and friends make memories naturally. Your Indiana State Parks are a great value, both in cost and as great places to get healthy, relax, and support local communities with tourism and jobs.

It is our centennial year. You can find information about all of the activities and projects related to our centennial at www.INStateParks100.com. We invite you to join us in celebrating and in the process, create some great stories and memories for the future. Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, wetlands and wildlife and slow down the pace of your daily, busy life for a few days. Get outside with your family and friends— you'll be glad you did. See you on the trail in 2016.

Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park

- Soccer goals have been installed in campground play fields at Mounds SRA and Whitewater Memorial. A basketball goal has been installed in the Whitewater Memorial campground.
- All B-loop campsites in the Whitewater Memorial campground are being paved.
- Three comfort stations in the Mounds SRA campground are being remodeled, and flooring will be installed in all of Mounds SRA restrooms.
- Whitewater Memorial family cabin interiors are being painted.
- Electricity is being added to 10 campsites in the Whitewater Memorial Horsemen's Campground
- The Fairfield SRA ramp has a new courtesy dock.
- The Mounds SRA Campground water tower has been repaired and painted, which should keep the campground from running out of water on busy weekends.
- During the summer, Whitewater Memorial cabins will receive restroom upgrades, siding repairs and new cabin sidewalks and lighting. New trees will be planted in the Mounds SRA Campground.
- The properties' first full-time interpretive naturalist, Kristie Ridgway, is now on site to serve both properties.

Brown County State Park

- Brown County welcomes new interpretive naturalist, Patrick Haulter.
- The park's nature center will be receiving an extensive upgrade to provide ADA-compliant public restrooms and an accessible walkway to the outdoor amphitheater.
- 12 new "cabin suites" will be opening in 2016 at the Abe Martin Lodge. The cabin suites will sleep up to 6 people. Accommodations, in addition to a bedroom and large bathroom, include a living area with hide-a-bed couches, dining table, sink, refrigerator, and microwave.
- Crushed stone will be added to many of the campsite pads and living areas in both the family campground and the horseman's campground.
- Fourteen new vault toilets will replace existing toilets in both the family and horseman's campgrounds.
- A camper dump station is under construction in the horseman's campground and should be operational by mid-summer.
- Large manure bins have been constructed to replace worn out, undersized bins in the horseman's campground.
- Horse hitching rails in the horsemen's campground have been replaced/repared, and stone added as needed.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at the Abe Martin Lodge this summer.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)

- New shower valves have been installed campground comfort stations.
- Railings and entrance signs have been painted at Cataract Falls.
- Campground comfort stations have received paint touch-ups.
- New mulch has been added to the playground area.
- Invasive autumn olive has been removed along the road to the nature center.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- The paved, fully accessible Centennial Trail provides a safe and scenic path from the campground to the beach.
- Campground comfort stations were stained, and the dump station tower was remounted. Hazardous trees and limbs were removed from the campground.
- The hillside at the Chapel Shelter amphitheater has been leveled, allowing more space in the amphitheater.
- Most property signs were replaced or painted.
- 2015 flood clean-up continued, including renovating the beach house concession stand, the south beach pit toilet, floating and courtesy docks and picnic areas.
- New floats were installed on the multi-slip courtesy dock at the main boat ramp.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- Forty six campsites were lengthened and upgraded to 50 AMP service. There are now 66 campsites with 50 AMP service.
- New high powered hand dryers were installed to replace 30-year old dryers in all campground comfort stations.
- LED lighting was installed on the exterior of the campground comfort stations, saving energy costs.
- A tornado siren was donated to Chain O'Lakes by the town of Albion, and the Indiana Trail 100 organization that hosts a 100 mile running race each year in the park is donating funds for the installation of the siren.
- An emergency helicopter landing area was established inside the park with the help of the Parkview Regional Hospital Samaritan helicopter pilots to eliminate the need to land on busy, nearby State Highway 9.
- A park office restroom was remodeled to provide a restroom that is publicly accessible.
- Fifteen rental paddleboats were refurbished this winter, to be added as rentals to the park's 70 canoes, 30 single kayaks, 14 double kayaks and 15 row boats.

Charlestown State Park and Falls of the Ohio State Park

- New immersive, interactive exhibits have been installed at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center.
- The Rose Island Interpretive Trail with interpretive exhibits and the "Walkway of Roses," and is now open to the public at Charlestown State Park.
- Campground gate and other structures were repainted.

Clifty Falls State Park

- Improvements have been made to the nature center, including replacement of ceiling tiles, HVAC work and reconstruction of the outdoor bird viewing area.
- The campground amphitheater is being rebuilt in summer 2016.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at Clifty Inn this summer.
- The removal of invasive bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven continues near Clifty Inn.
- The "Clifty Clubhouse" play area will open this summer, providing a playground near Clifty Inn. It will include a connecting trail to the nature center.
- Water line repairs have been made at the north end of the park, and electric service to the north end was repaired *twice* after repeated storms took down line and load center.
- Campground pads are getting a new layer of gravel.
- A campground comfort station is getting a new roof.
- Staff have been monitoring and removing hazard trees created by the presence of the emerald ash borer.

Fort Harrison State Park

- The third play area of the Ft. Harrison State Park Dog Park will open this summer.
- The Saddle Barn operation is under new management. Several new employees, as well as staff from years past, will be manning the operation this season.
- Removal of invasive honeysuckle from roadsides and nature preserves will continue with volunteer/contract assistance.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at the Fort Harrison Inn this summer.
- Several new performances have been added to the park's Summer Concert Series and the park will be hosting a wide variety of events in the Bicentennial "Arts in the Parks" series.

Hardy Lake

- The Alpha Ramp fishing pier has been rebuilt.
- The Alpha Ramp has been repaired with new concrete at the access point.
- Guests will see numerous repairs to restroom facilities in the campground and in other locations.
- Siding has been replaced on the entrance gatehouse.
- Signage has been upgraded/improved in the campground.

Harmonie State Park

- Diaper changing stations have been installed in the pool bath house.
- The swimming pool has received some concrete repair and a fresh coat of paint.
- Exteriors of the comfort stations and nature center were painted.
- Storm drains in the campground were repaired to reduce flooding potential in low areas.
- Fifteen campsite pads got new gravel, and 20 more will be re-graveled this summer.
- The campground gatehouse has a new flagpole and landscaping.
- Carpenter bee damage is being repaired on the family cabins.
- An “expression swing” was installed in the campground that allows parents and toddlers to swing together face-to-face. The swing proved to be so popular that staff ordered two more.
- Mile markers were installed on the mountain bike trails to improve rider information and assist in emergencies.
- A new grinder pump was installed at the sewage treatment plant to improve efficiency.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- A new beach comfort station adjacent to the pavilion has changing rooms and outdoor showers.
- The Dunes Kankakee Trail was extended from the park to the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, making the park even more bike and pedestrian friendly.
- A new “pedicab” passenger service will be available this summer for visitors arriving via the South Shore Train line

Lincoln State Park

- The nature center has a new mural, and insect collections and collection boxes were donated by St. Meinrad.
- Campground improvements include a new campground/cabin waterline, new water fountains around the park, new water heaters in comfort stations and new sidewalks to water connections/comfort stations for most accessible campsites.
- The amphitheater, cast house and set shop received new roofs.
- All family cabins now have new windows – the last 5 cabins’ windows were replaced this past winter.
- The widow’s walk roof and hand railings were replaced at the Colonel Jones Home.

McCormick’s Creek State Park

- Campground comfort station ventilation is being improved.
- A permanent fire ring has been installed at the Canyon Inn, near the recreation center.
- Rotting logs were replaced in the Beech Grove Shelter, and chinking was repaired and repainted.
- Rotting lots in the park amphitheater building were repaired and it was painted.
- The CCC Recreation Hall and Trailside Shelter are getting new roofs.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at Canyon Inn this summer.
- The camp store has been relocated from near the park swimming pool to the recreation center near the Canyon Inn
- A shelter designed to commemorate Indiana State Parks’ centennial will be built this summer.

Mississinewa Lake

- Drainage has been improved in the campground.
- Campground pads will be rehabbed and expanded during the spring and summer.
- Recovery from the record 2015 flooding has included seasonal campground reseeding and rehabbing the campground gate.
- After the removal of over 300 dead and dying ash trees, the disc golf course has been reseeded and will get new baskets, benches and pin locations later this spring.
- Dead ash trees (250) were removed along the entrance road at Francis Slocum SRA.
- The Lost Sister Trail at Francis Slocum SRA will be extended and the trailhead relocated adjacent to a modern restroom.
- The Mississinewa Lake sign near the property office is being rehabbed.
- The boat ramp at Frances Slocum SRA has been repaired.

Monroe Lake

- The modern campground now has a complete new water distribution system.
- Parts of the campground were repaved following water system repairs/replacement.
- A new waste pump out system is in place for boats at Paynetown marina.
- Ethanol free fuel is now available at the Paynetown marina.
- A large culvert was replaced on the main Paynetown entrance road.

Mounds State Park

- Campground roads have been repaved.
- Water fill up stations in the campground have been upgraded.
- New log benches have been installed between the visitor center and Great Mound.
- All wood sided structures received a fresh coat of exterior stain.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- The new Class A campground gatehouse is open.
- The Class A campground has a new playground.
- Horse, hiking and multi-use/mountain bike trails have new signage, trail gates and fencing.
- There are new hitching rails, new manure bins and site leveling improvements in the horsemen's campground.
- Site work is underway for the reopening of Wyandotte Caves in the summer of 2016.
- With site, dorm and kitchen/meeting room improvements, the O'Bannon Woods group camp will reopen this fall.

Ouabache State Park

- The baseball field has been restored and a bocce ball court will be installed.
- An accessible ramp and sidewalk are being installed to the CCC statue.
- The southern comfort station is undergoing a complete renovation.
- The youth tent area and B campground entrance are being improved.
- A new bison feeding station will be constructed this summer.

Patoka Lake

- Comfort stations in section C are getting new tile and partitions.
- The campground is getting new dump station towers.
- New bulletin boards are being installed on restrooms and throughout the property.
- The Ballfield Shelter has new 100 amp service.
- A new lawn area has been created at the beach with removal of brush.
- New playground surfaces are being installed.

Pokagon State Park

- Campground comfort station interiors will be painted, new shower benches and new efficient LED lighting installed and comfort stations #2 & #4 will get new entrance doors.
- New framing and stone are being provided for drinking fountains.
- The new "pocket museum" is open in the historic Civilian Conservation Corps gatehouse. Stop by during gate operation hours to see the exhibits.
- A new electronic information sign is located at the front gate, thanks to our partners at Steuben County CVB.
- New directional signs are in place in different areas of the property.
- The nature center has a new topographical map exhibit that allows visitors to look at the park and its trails.
- Pokagon welcomes new interpretive naturalist, Marie Laudeman and new inn manager Rob Parker.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at the Potawatomi Inn this summer.

Potato Creek State Park

- Loops D1 and E in the modern campground all have new 50 amp electrical service and a pedestal at each campsite.
- A new water distribution system has been installed for the north side of the park.
- A new soft water system is in place for the family campground and cabins.
- New bulletin boards have been installed in the family campground.
- Fiber optic cable has been installed to improve park communications.

Prophetstown State Park

- A new entrance park entrance road will be open by the end of May. The road winds through prairie and fields, and alongside a sand/gravel mining operation that will eventually be a recreational lake for the park.
- A two mile extension of the bike trail is underway. When complete it will run from the gatehouse east across the prairie to an area near the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers.
- New lighted bollards are being installed in the parking lots of the comfort station in the campground to provide safer night time access to the restrooms.
- A new firewood shed near the entrance gate will allow campers to purchase dry wood with a credit/debit card at either the main gate or the campground gate.
- The campground gatehouse and vault toilet will be restained to match other park buildings.
- Campsite pad maintenance to control weeds for the season is underway, and will help maintain a clean and professional look in the campground.

Salamonie Lake

- A new shelter and vault toilet have been installed at the Lost Bridge West fishing/wildlife pond.
- The boat ramps have been paved in both Lost Bridge West & Lost Bridge East.
- Roads and parking lots have been paved in Lost Bridge West.
- New bathroom fixtures will be installed in several comfort stations.
- Campground pads are being resurfaced.
- The beach swimming area has been extended.
- New hunter check-in stations are being installed property wide.
- Facilities at Salamonie State Forest will once again be managed by the Division of Forestry.

Shakamak State Park

- Class A Campsites are getting new gravel pads.
- Renovations have been completed in three cabins.
- New boat docks have been installed near the cabins on Lake Shakamak
- The men's showers in the campground now have individual stalls.

Spring Mill State Park

- The restroom in the Pioneer Village is completely rebuilt and open.
- Cave River Valley Natural Area has new gravel on the main road, and picnic areas are available for day use.
- Spring Mill Lake dredging is complete and ready for fishing, kayaking and canoeing. It will be dedicated as a Centennial Legacy Project with a lake celebration in September.
- The park's new full-time interpretive naturalist is Wyatt Williams.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at Spring Mill Inn this summer.
- Spring Mill Inn has new conference room carpet and new buffet servers in the Mill Stone Dining room.

Summit Lake State Park

- New mulch will be installed in the campground playground.
- New stone will be installed on some campsites.
- A park nature center will be developed in the old campground office this summer.
- A new gift shop is now open in the park office.
- The property boat rental will have bait and tackle, two additional boats, two paddle boards, and trolling motors for rent this year.

Tippecanoe River State Park

- Electric campground comfort stations will receive new countertops, sinks and faucet fixtures.
- The historic Tipicon Recreation Building will receive electrical upgrades, historically appropriate fixtures with LED lighting ceiling fans and GFCI outlets in the kitchen.
- A new playground has been installed in the horsemen's campground.
- Energy costs were reduced through the installation of new garage doors in the service area.
- A new public recycling center is being installed through a cooperative effort with the Pulaski County Recycling Center.
- About 100 acres of invasive plants (autumn olive, oriental bittersweet, bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose) were removed.
- Hazard and downed trees have been removed from roadsides and trails.
- Improvements were made to open up the River Demonstration Savanna #2 for more development of grasses.
- The rotating biological contactor in the park's wastewater treatment facility was replaced.

Turkey Run State Park and Shades State Park

- The Lieber Memorial was restored and dedicated as a Centennial Legacy Project.
- The campground control station has been repainted, received new flooring, and cabinets. Additional painting will be completed this summer in other campground facilities.
- Some water hydrants in the campground have been upgraded, and nearly 100 stumps have been removed.
- A shelter designed to commemorate Indiana State Parks' centennial will be built this summer.
- New playground equipment will be installed between tennis court shelters and the new centennial shelter.
- The nature center and several other facilities have new LED lighting.
- Three charging stations will be installed for electric vehicles.
- Trees along the entrance of the Shades campground have received mulch.
- A Tesla charging station with 2 Tesla ports and 1 universal port will be installed at Turkey Run Inn this summer.
- Nature center honeybee hives have been renovated and will be fully stocked with bees in May.
- New feeder logs and hanging feeders have been installed in the wildlife observation area at the nature center.

Versailles State Park

- Campground comfort stations are receiving new more efficient LED lighting.
- New soap dispensers have been installed in comfort stations park wide.
- The new horsemen's campground is expected to be open by Memorial Day Weekend.
- Trail improvements include 1.5-2 additional miles of hiking/mountain biking trail on Hassmer Hill, reroutes on the Orchard and Old Growth Forest hiking trails and new trail signage.
- The nature center has a new aquarium wall, new photos by staff and local photographers, and the bird viewing room is being repainted and improved.
- Group camp improvements include a new yellow pine hardwood floor and repainting of cabin 10, and a new group camp stove and disposal in the mess hall.
- New vault toilets will be installed at the horse use day area and at the new horsemen's campground.