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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2018

Below is a snapshot of work we have done and will do to prepare for your visits in 2018.

There are many other small projects not listed that help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.



Memories made naturally.

Indiana's 32 state park properties 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 recent years, we have focused attention on campground and cabin improvements, filling full-time and seasonal staff positions, and continuing a tradition of excellence in interpretation and in hospitality at Indiana State Park inns.

We have a new 5-year plan, based on public responses to our Centennial Survey (more than 10,000 responses) and input from staff. It focuses on facilities and trails, improving efforts to manage our natural resources and remove invasive species, investing in technology, looking at ways to be more environmentally responsible, and training and support for park staff.

Learn about our mission, vision and values at stateparks.IN.gov/6169.htm.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers. Our Friends Groups and other donors contributed thousands of dollars and labor 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.

Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, wetlands and wildlife and slow down for a few days. Get outside with family and friends. You'll be glad you did. See you on the trails in 2018!

Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial Complex

- A new comfort station is open in Whitewater Memorial Campground Loop A.
- A new basketball court in the Mounds SRA campground at Brookville Lake.
- A new interpretive fire ring is ready for use for programs and as a gathering place in the Mounds campground.
- Staff cut 200 dying trees from the Whitewater Memorial Campground and 50 from the Mounds SRA Campground.
- A new courtesy dock is available at Egypt Hollow SRA Boat Ramp.
- By Memorial Day Weekend, the archery range at Quakertown will feature new 3D targets at 20 stations.
- Whitewater Memorial will have a new centrally located dump station for campers in early July.
- New boats are available at the Whitewater Memorial Boat Rental, and paddleboards have been added to the mix.
- The property has a new shuttle boat dock for the buoy mooring field.
- The new fishing pier at the Whitewater Memorial beach opened last fall and is ready for use again this year.

Brown County State Park

- Repaved the entrance road from North Entrance to Abe Martin Lodge.
- Repaired walls and floors in three campground restrooms.
- Repaired horse hitch rails in the Horsemen's Campground.
- Installed new rail fence in several locations.
- Repaved walks to 20 family cabins.
- Updated the bird observation room at the nature center.
- New snakes displays in the nature center.
- Installed a new orchid section in the interpretive garden at the nature center.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)

- A new gatehouse is under construction at Cataract Falls and should open around Memorial Day.
- The Hilltop Shelter restroom has new paint, a new epoxy floor, new partitions and new plumbing fixtures.
- Repairs to the swimming pool, including two new circulation pumps and new filter media, will be completed by early June.
- Major repairs are underway on the marina dock.
- Two seasonal interpreters will have the nature center open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- Installed approximately 20 acres of new fish structures with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and DNR Fish & Wildlife.
- Planted 80 trees in the campground to begin to replace the 150 trees lost to the emerald ash borer.
- The entire length of the main park road, from the main gate to the main ramp was repaved by INDOT near the end of 2017.
- Cleared Mansfield Ramp of silt to allow winter access to the lake for boating, fishing and waterfowl hunting.
- The Lakeview Comfort Station will have improved accessibility with new showers, sinks and toilets.
- Campground playgrounds received a new layer of rubber mulch for improved access and safety.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- The park has a full-time interpretive naturalist for the first time.
- Installed new interior LED lighting and plumbing fixtures in the campground comfort stations.
- Installed new asphalt shingle roofs on the family cabins.

Charlestown State Park

- New playground in the campground.
- New mulch on playgrounds in the campground and picnic area.
- Replaced roofs on the park office, campground restrooms and the campground gatehouse.
- An LED lighting project is underway to replace lights in the comfort stations and other park facilities.

Clifty Falls State Park

- Camper pads have new gravel and leveling in the electric campground.
- Campground bathrooms have new fixtures and improved parking areas.
- Installed an extended pull-off at the campground dump station to ease traffic.
- Installed a new "Kid's Korner" in the nature center.
- A two-person invasive plant removal crew worked in Clifty Canyon in 2017. Work will continue this year.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- Replaced observation deck on the river side of the interpretive center.
- Installed new, efficient LED lighting outside and in restrooms.
- Installed new and replacement interpretive panels on the observation deck.

Fort Harrison State Park

- Removed more than 200 acres of invasive plants in Warbler Woods Nature Preserve.
- Installed a new vault toilet in the dog park parking lot. New agility equipment will be installed soon.
- The Friends of Fort Harrison group completed several trail improvement projects and will add more this summer. They also worked with REI to clean and paint play-area railings in the Shafter Road Picnic Area.
- The Museum of 20th Century Warfare added new displays and exhibits.
- Look for new and improved trail signage in summer.
- The Garrison has added dinner during summer on Wednesdays and Thursday.

Hardy Lake

- Renovated the interior of comfort station A in the campground.
- Renovated 13 bird rehab enclosures at the raptor center.
- The raptor display area at the park office was completed, and the birds will be back in 2018.
- Work has begun to renovate all trail bridges.
- Installed a new anchoring system at the boat dock.
- LED lighting and repairs to water line breaks throughout the property improved efficiency and cost savings.

Harmonie State Park

- Front porches are being added to all family cabins.
- All campground comfort station doors are being replaced.
- Campsite pads have a new layer of gravel.
- Work continues on the outdoor education shelter by the nature center. It should be available for use by the interpreter this summer.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- Will replace the Trail 2 wetland boardwalk in July.
- The bird observation platform ramp and deck are now fully accessible, with magnificent views of Lake Michigan.
- Installed new information throughout the campground.
- The campground comfort stations have new shower and sink fixtures and improved ventilation.
- Installed a new swing set in the campground's west playground
- The nature center wildlife viewing area will add a new outdoor box turtle summer enclosure.

Lincoln State Park

- Installed new, efficient LED lighting in the campground comfort stations, camp store and park office.
- Planted new trees throughout the park.
- Installed new ceiling fans and a buffet counter in the group camp dining hall.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- Replaced partitions in the campground comfort stations.
- The Cook's Cabin in Camp Na-Wa-Kwa, damaged by a falling tree last year, was repaired and improved.
- Canyon Inn has a new and improved gift shop.
- Restoration of the McCormick's Creek fire tower is slated to begin in June with support from friends and donors.
- The new Centennial Cabin is getting final touches and is expected to open later this spring.
- A project to remove invasive honeysuckle is underway around the nature center.
- Treatment of healthy ash trees to ward off destruction by the emerald ash borer begins this spring.

Mississinewa Lake

- New courtesy docks will be installed at Pearson's Mill, Francis Slocum, and the campground mooring areas.
- Installed two new vault toilets at Frances Slocum SRA.
- Campground comfort stations have new doors and partitions.
- Installed 135 50-amp electrical pedestals in the back loop of the modern campground.
- Improved 40 campground pads.
- Two CXT restrooms will be installed this summer – one at the Miami SRA Ramp and one in the campground.
- A new archery range near the Miami SRA boat ramp will open by the middle of June with five targets ranging from 10-50 yards.
- New interpretive signs are being installed at the entrance to the Lost Sister Trail in Frances Slocum SRA.

Monroe Lake

- Installed new, efficient LED lighting in four comfort stations
- Installed new flooring in two comfort stations
- Paynetown SRA beach, boat ramp and marina parking lot paving is expected to be completed this spring.

Mounds State Park

- Upgraded 50 campsites to 50-amp service.
- Installed new roofs on the campground comfort station, swimming pool restrooms and the manager's residence.
- Replaced doors on campground vault toilets.
- Replaced the hot water circulating pump in the campground comfort station.
- Treatment has begun for the large blue ash near the Bronnenberg Home to prevent damage by the emerald ash borer.

Ouabache State Park

- The new beach on Kunkel Lake will open before Memorial Day.
- Installed new pumps in the main sewage lift station.
- The lodge has a new bridal suite changing room.
- Restoration of the Civilian Conservation Corps fire tower should be complete by midsummer.

O'Bannon Woods State Park /Wyandotte Caves

- Installed a new hood, fire suppression system and industrial kitchen appliances in the group camp.
- Shelter House #2 is getting new siding, roof, tables and shutters.
- Painted the aquatic center pool surface.
- A new wagon storage shed will be installed at the nature center.
- A new display in the nature center will feature a live hellbender.
- Hazard ash tree removal continues throughout the property.
- New lighting was completed in Little Wyandotte Cave.
- Installed a new bridge on the accessible trail between the group camp and the nature center.

Patoka Lake

- An expanded four-lane dump station will be available for campers.
- All 11 comfort stations in the modern campground have new paint and LED Lights.
- The archery range has been remodeled and is open for use.
- Installed all new fitness trail equipment.
- New hiking trail signage and trail clearing will make hiking easier.
- Remodeled the Newton-Stewart courtesy dock.
- Installed new nature center displays.
- Paved several parking lots. Installed several new hunter check stations.
- Installed four new osprey nesting platforms.
- Rebuilt the Lick Fork Hunter Parking Lot.

Pokagon State Park

- Campground comfort station improvements include new LED lighting in four buildings, plus sinks, faucets, men's shower partitions, hand dryers and paint in Campground 3, new paint in two other comfort stations, and a new tile floor in Campground 2.
- The entire campground has new asphalt paving.
- Improved sites in Campground 3.
- Installed new AV equipment, paint, carpet, and chairs and a new accessible drinking fountain in the nature center.
- The toboggan warming center has new windows and exterior siding.
- Installed new drain lines and grease separators for kitchen plumbing in the group camp kitchen.
- New tile showers, restroom partitions, sinks, faucets, LED lighting, hand dryers, exhaust fans, windows, exterior doors, exterior lighting, and painting will greet guests in the group camp restrooms.
- Installed a new roof, siding, doors, hot water system, and exhaust fans in the South Beach restroom.
- Installed new restroom exhaust fans and electrical wiring improvements in the Trine SRA family cabins.

Potato Creek State Park

- Campground comfort stations have new, more efficient LED lighting.
- Family cabins have new wood flooring and dehumidifiers.
- Restored a park levee to improve water retention.
- New gravel added to level campsites
- Staff will operate camp store rather than concessionaires.

Prophetstown State Park

- The entire 5 miles of the bike trail is now paved, from near the gatehouse access point to the east end of the park.
- Honeysuckle is being removed on the park's north ridge between the campground and the pond. This is part of an oak regeneration project to restore healthy mixed age forest.
- A mitigation project removed invasive species and restored four acres of oaks and other plants in a perched wetland site.
- Invasive trees and shrubs are being removed in and around campsites. Two hundred oak trees will be planted in these areas to begin the restoration of oak savanna in an area that was originally part of a Christmas tree farm.
- Invasive trees, shrubs and the Douglas firs that were a part of a Christmas tree farm near the Meadow View picnic area are being removed, and will be replaced with tall grass prairie and restore the oak savannah historically found in the area..
- Invasive trees and shrubs are being removed from the ten acre woods near the Farm at Prophetstown. The area will be thinned to allow oak species of trees to be planted and regenerate.
- Property staff conducted several prescribed fires to revitalize the prairies and wetlands.

Salamonie Lake

- All playgrounds received new playground mulch.
- Comfort stations 1, 2 and 4 have new epoxy floors, toilets and urinals.
- New courtesy docks are available at all boat ramps.
- Planted 17 trees near the office area, in the youth tent area, at campground sites and along the marina hillside.
- The Marsh Trail is being improved through levee repair and by eliminating the rough hiking surface.
- Planted 25 acres of native grasses and wildflowers for wildlife/pollinator habitat in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- The rearing pond, formerly used for walleye fingerlings, is being rehabbed to use for yellow perch in partnership with the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.
- New interpretive signs focusing on pollinators and habitat are being installed outside the interpretive center.

Shakamak State Park

- Replaced the brick wall at the front gate house using historic preservation standards.
- New brick pillars are in place at the swimming pool.
- Installed new screen doors on family cabins 10-26.
- Upgraded campsites in the Class B campground.

Spring Mill State Park

- The reconstructed Red Cross Cabin will be available for rent this summer.
- The boat ramp is open on Spring Mill Lake, and the boat rental facility will be up and running.
- A new animal exhibit is available in the nature center.
- A new video tour is now offered on a tablet to provide accessibility for those unable to ride into Twin Caves.
- A two-person invasive plant crew removed burning bush and vinca last summer and will continue to work this year.
- Remodeled restroom vanities at Spring Mill Inn, and all restrooms have new faucets.
- Added lighting and a small, gas fire pit to Spring Mill Inn's back patio.
- Spring Mill Inn now has several pet friendly rooms.

Summit Lake State Park

- Comfort Stations have new shower fixtures, iron removal and ventilation systems, and new toilets.
- Added a new porch to the boat rental facility.
- Added a new walkway to the campground dock
- The floors at the beach will soon be painted with slip-resistant floor paint.
- Trails will soon be marked throughout the park with new directional signage.

Tipppecanoe River State Park

- Refurbished showers in Comfort Station A in the electric campground.
- Restored the exterior of Tepicon Recreation Hall and installed an accessible sidewalk and ramp.
- Installed new posts on the Fire Tower Picnic Shelter.
- Removed woody vegetation to restore a 15-acre prairie within the Sandhill Nature Preserve.
- Installed new landscaping at the park office.

Turkey Run and Shades State Park Complex

- A new food concession area will be open at the Olympic-sized pool.
- Remodeled the Shades campground control station. It now includes a small camp store.
- Two new hiking challenges are available: the Five-Mile Hiking Challenge at Turkey Run and the Six-Ravine Hiking Challenge at Shades State Park. Both highlight unique property features.
- Installed new rail fence in several areas.
- A new staircase is being installed at the Cox Ford Access Site.
- Repaired several trail structures (steps, bridges, etc.) at both properties.
- Several accessible campsites are being improved with work to be completed by the end of June. Several accessible water hydrants and valve replacements will also be installed.
- Installed a new roof on the Turkey Run Inn.
- Installed a new sidewalk that passes the Juliet Strauss statue and leads toward Lieber Cabin and Sunset Point.
- Turkey Run's property office is getting a new roof and dormer replacements.
- Removed nearly 300 hazard trees from along Canyon Road in preparation for repaving later this summer.

Versailles State Park

- The swimming pool was painted and has a new low dive board, a new drop-in slide, and new lifeguard stands.
- The Oak Grove shelter and restroom received new roofing.
- Reroofed all campground bathhouses and installed new water heaters.
- Installed a new courtesy dock and kayak launch on Versailles Lake.
- Installed new, energy-efficient LED lighting in all property buildings
- Added 19 new electrical pedestals in the campground.

Explore other outdoor places to enjoy at www.dnr.IN.gov

DNR