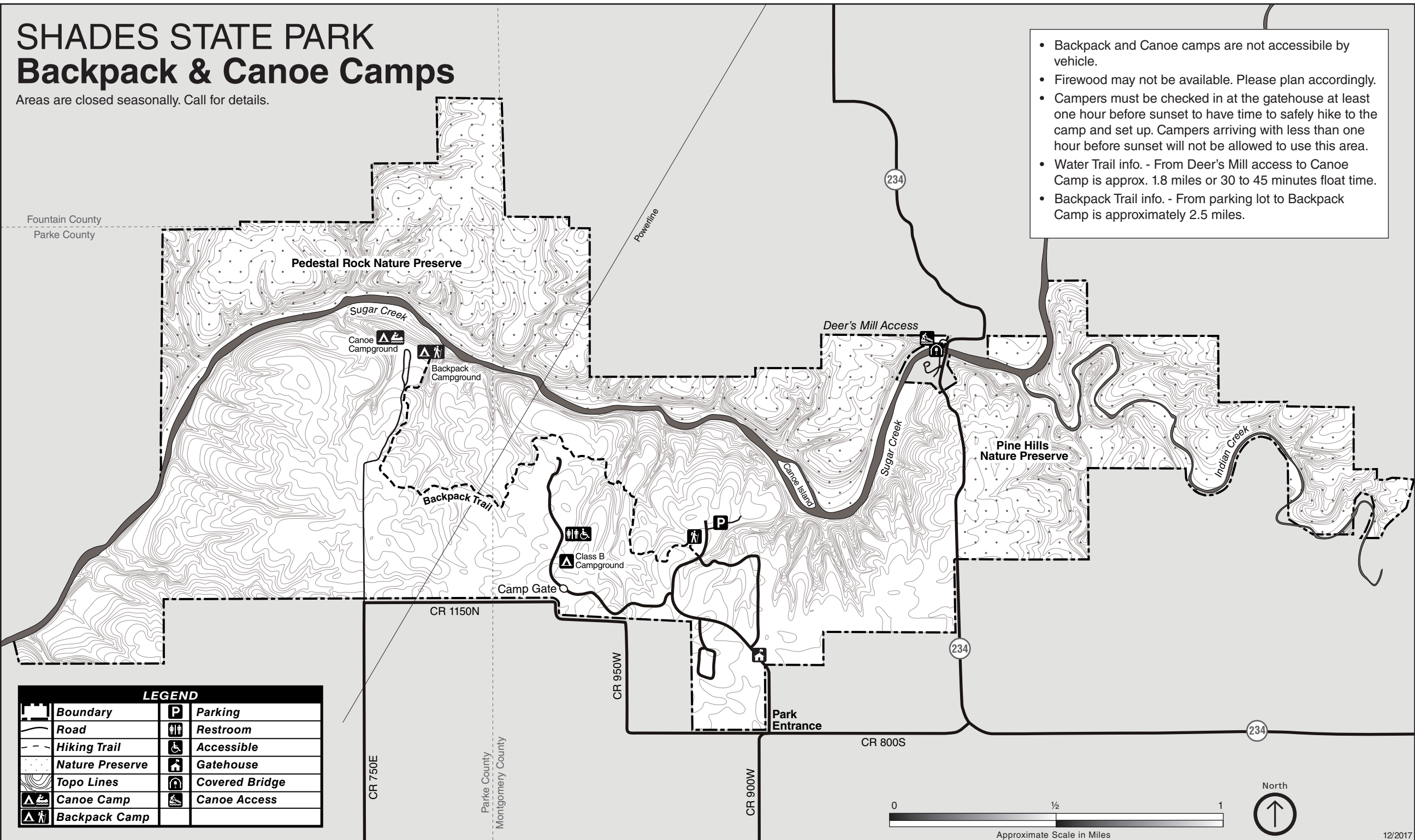


# SHADES STATE PARK

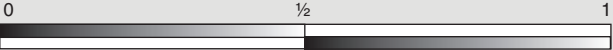
## Backpack & Canoe Camps

Areas are closed seasonally. Call for details.

- Backpack and Canoe camps are not accessible by vehicle.
- Firewood may not be available. Please plan accordingly.
- Campers must be checked in at the gatehouse at least one hour before sunset to have time to safely hike to the camp and set up. Campers arriving with less than one hour before sunset will not be allowed to use this area.
- Water Trail info. - From Deer's Mill access to Canoe Camp is approx. 1.8 miles or 30 to 45 minutes float time.
- Backpack Trail info. - From parking lot to Backpack Camp is approximately 2.5 miles.



LEGEND			
	Boundary		Parking
	Road		Restroom
	Hiking Trail		Accessible
	Nature Preserve		Gatehouse
	Topo Lines		Covered Bridge
	Canoe Camp		Canoe Access
	Backpack Camp		



## ABOUT THE BACKPACK TRAIL

The trail begins in young second-growth forest, marked by many tall, straight tulip trees. Occasional meadows provide splashes of late summer color, as flowers such as Queen Anne's lace, asters and goldenrod bloom.

The trail then follows an old fire lane through an older second-growth forest. Shagbark hickory, honey locust, ash and black cherry trees are common. This area was once logged. Only a few big trees remain; look for these growing in the ravine walls.

The trail follows the fire lane through an old pine plantation on top of a ridge. The surrounding ridge tops are also covered with pines. These ridge tops were once logged and then reforested with white pine (five needles/bunch), pitch pine (three needles/bunch), and Scotch pine (orange bark).

The pines give way to a young forest with red oak, sassafras, cherry and dogwood. Once again look along the ravine walls for bigger trees like the smooth gray-bark beech. These areas may not have been logged. In openings, look for junipers, small tulip trees and pine seedlings.

The trail descends into the ravine, crosses a small stream, and climbs to another ridge top. Stop in the ravine and notice how different the forest seems. Water-loving trees like the sycamore, with its white under bark, the warty-barked hackberry and the ironwood (musclewood) tree are found here. A thicket of scouring rush grows in the little stream.

The open areas the trail passes through next were recently farmed but forest is slowly moving in. Broom sedge grass is plentiful. A variety of meadow flowers are common. Pine and oak seedlings, thorny hawthorns and crabapples, dogwood, sumac, juniper and cherry are abundant here, too. They form the beginning of a new forest.

After passing under the overhead power lines, the trail descends into a low area. The forest contains walnut and honey locust trees and poison ivy vines. The trail continues through more areas of successional plants (meadows with young trees) and ends in the field connecting to Sugar Creek.

## BACKPACK CAMP USE-RESTRICTIONS

1. The backpack camp is restricted to backpacking campers only. The backpack camp is not accessible by automobile.
2. The area is restricted to those backpacking into the area and backpacking out, 2½ miles one way. Campers are expected to be equipped for this type of camping.
3. Campers must be checked in at the gatehouse at least one hour before sunset to have time to safely hike to the camp and set up. Campers arriving with less than one hour before sunset will not be allowed to use this area.
4. Area is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are seven backpack sites in the camp. Camping must be confined to these sites. Camping along the trail is strictly prohibited.
5. The area is strictly primitive; there are no modern facilities. The area has potable water and a pit toilet.
6. A site may consist of up to six people with a maximum of two tents.
7. Firewood may not be collected at the camp. Firewood sold to campers by the park is not guaranteed. (see #4 under "Planning your Backpack or Canoe Camp Outing")

## ABOUT THE CANOE CAMP

The canoe campground is located on the bank of Sugar Creek in a rich bottomland forest that probably has not been logged. Large white-branched sycamore trees grow along the creek and near the campground. Look for warty-bark hackberry and big, gray-barked beech trees. Above the campground is a typical upland forest, including beeches, maples, tulip trees and several kinds of oaks and hickories.

The steep cliffs you see while canoeing are massive deposits of sandstone formed hundreds of millions of years ago. At that time, this area was under an ocean. Sand, mud, and plant and animal remains washed in and accumulated on the ocean floor. Eventually thick deposits of sandstone fossilized. Look for these fossils on the sandbars. They are frequently released from the stone as Sugar Creek cuts through the sandstone.

Hemlocks grow on the edges of the cliffs. During the ice age, glaciers covered this portion of Indiana. The hemlocks are a relict of the forest that covered Indiana during the glacial period. As the glaciers melted and retreated, water cut through the sandstone and formed the steep cliffs and canyons along the creek. Seeds of hemlocks and other plants carried down in the ice from northern forests were left behind.

## CANOE CAMP USE-RESTRICTIONS

1. The canoe camp is restricted to canoeists only. It provides an opportunity for an overnight canoe trip. Occupancy is limited to one night.
2. The canoe camp is not accessible by automobile. It is not an access site, and canoes may not be taken out at this location. Canoeists have the option of going upstream 2 miles to Deer's Mill Access or downstream 9 miles to Brush Creek Access, which is located at Turkey Run State Park.
3. A site may be occupied by no more than six people with a maximum of two tents.
4. The area is strictly primitive. There are no modern facilities. Potable water is available up the hill at the backpack camp. A pit toilet is located approximately 75 yards up the access road toward the backpack camp.
5. The canoe camp may be very busy at certain times. People desiring to use this area will not be denied access at such times because there is a lack of alternative camping area along the stream.
6. Firewood may not be collected at the camp. Firewood sold to campers by the park is not guaranteed. (see #4 under "Items for Planning your Backpack or Canoe Camp Outing")

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Shades State Park  
7751 S. 890 W.  
Andrew, IN 46702

Call: 765-435-2810

Online: [stateparks.IN.gov/2970.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2970.htm)



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



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# SHADES STATE PARK BACKPACK & CANOE CAMPS GUIDE

## PLANNING YOUR OUTING

1. Both of these areas are closed seasonally. Camping is strictly prohibited from late November to April. There are no reservations—camping is first-come, first-served.
2. These are primitive areas. The areas are NOT accessible by automobile or other motorized vehicles. Please plan accordingly.
3. Campers are required to register and pay fee. Contact the main park office for specifics.
4. Plan for low-impact camping. Bring portable cook stoves or similar items for cooking. Bring lanterns or similar items for light. Firewood cannot be picked up at the site. One bundle of firewood per site per night may be available from the park security officer; however, this is not guaranteed. Please plan accordingly. Fires are permitted only in provided fire rings.
5. These are considered "remote areas." When camping in remote areas, the users accept more responsibility for their own needs and safety. The response time for emergencies at these areas can vary one to two hours or more, depending on the method used for reporting (such as when campers have to hike out to report an emergency).
6. Transportation will not be provided to users. The hiking of all trails after dusk is prohibited. A one-hour restriction prior to sunset (see #3 under "Backpack Camp Use-Restrictions") is strictly enforced. This restriction includes people wanting to meet campers at these areas.
7. The canoe camp cannot be used as an access site.
8. Both campgrounds (canoe and backpack) are strictly primitive. There are no modern facilities. The areas have a potable water source and pit toilets.

## HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

- Build fires only in designated areas.
- Be sure to properly dispose of all smoking materials.
- Report any violation of fire regulations to park officials at once.
- Leave only footprints. Take only memories.