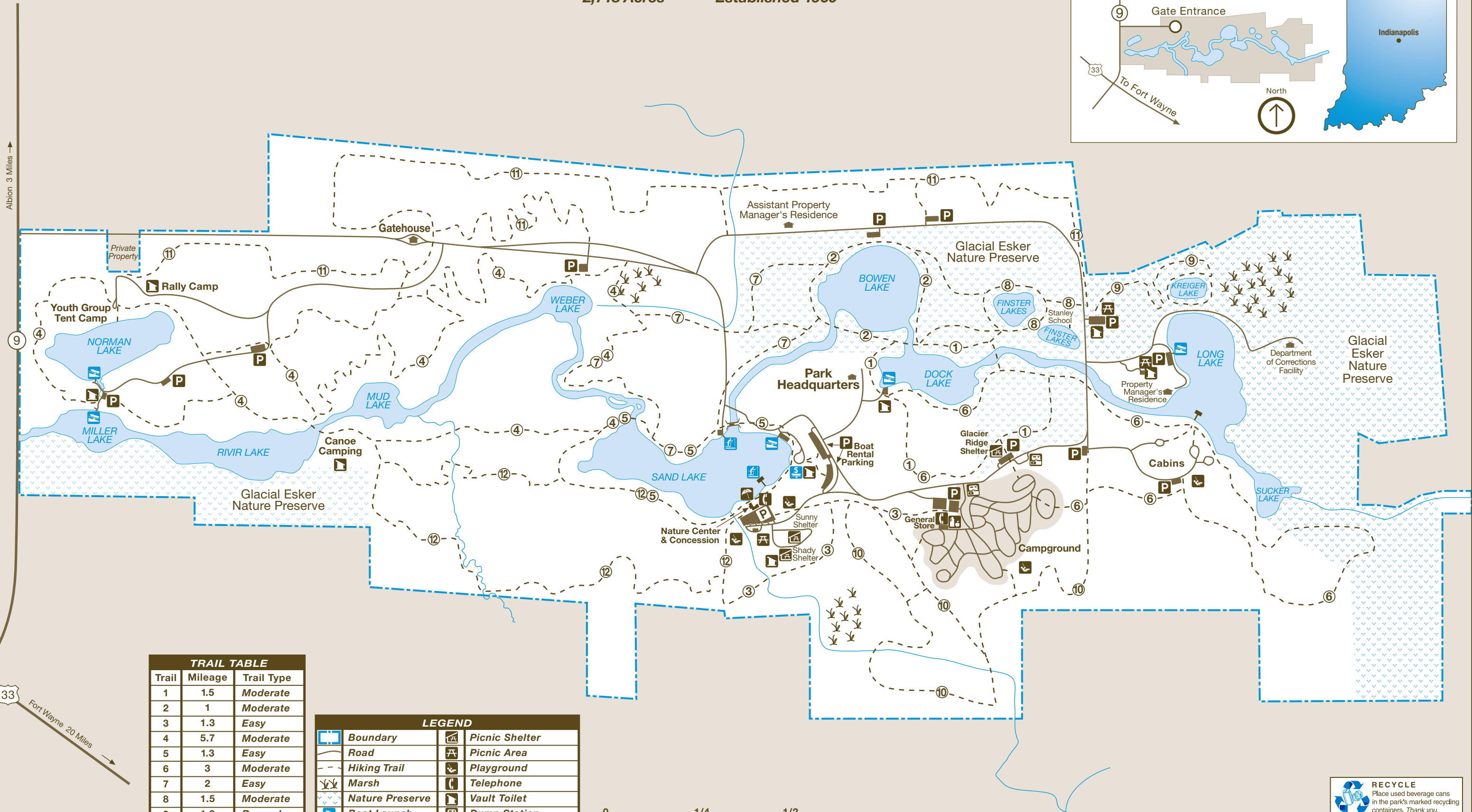
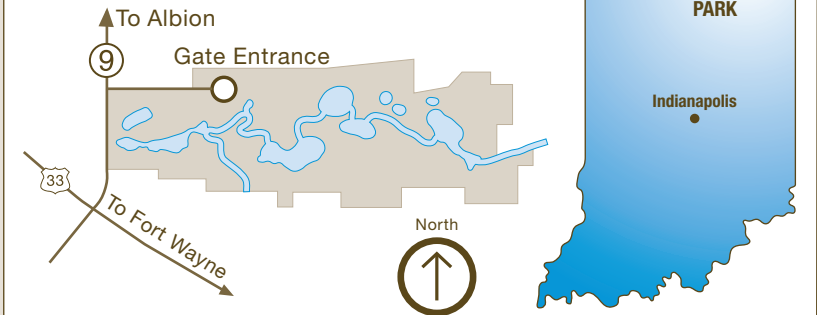


CHAIN O' LAKES STATE PARK

2355 E. 75 South • Albion, Indiana 46701 • (260) 636-2654
2,718 Acres Established 1960

LOCATION MAP

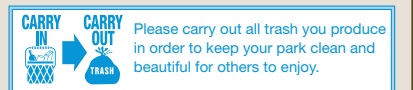
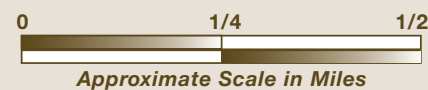


TRAIL TABLE

Trail	Mileage	Trail Type
1	1.5	Moderate
2	1	Moderate
3	1.3	Easy
4	5.7	Moderate
5	1.3	Easy
6	3	Moderate
7	2	Easy
8	1.5	Moderate
9	1.3	Rugged
10	2.5	Moderate
11	4.4	Easy
12	3.5	Moderate

LEGEND

	Boundary		Picnic Shelter
	Road		Picnic Area
	Hiking Trail		Playground
	Marsh		Telephone
	Nature Preserve		Vault Toilet
	Boat Launch		Dump Station
	Fishing Pier		General Store
	Boat Rental		Parking
	Beach		



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the massive ice sheets that advanced over and then melted from this part of the Midwest near the end of the Pleistocene epoch between 19,000 and 16,000 years ago. The lakes in this chain are kettle lakes formed when the glaciers were still huge blocks of ice. Rivers of water resulting from melting ice carved the channels, which connect nine of the 13 lakes in the park.

The 732-acre Glacial Esker Nature Preserve was dedicated in 2012 to protect the glacial features in the park. An esker is a long winding ridge of stratified sand and gravel of peculiarly uniform shape that was deposited under a glacier. There was a tunnel conducting the melt water out of the glacier, and as the melt water flow waned it deposited the esker. This esker is considered the best example of the geological feature in the state.















Before its settlement by pioneers, the area was inhabited by Native Americans, such as the Miami. A village of about 30 bark wigwams was located on the north shore of what was once called Indian Lake. William Bowen was one of the first settlers in the area in the 1830s. In 1840 he constructed a home on the north shore of the lake, which eventually became known as Bowen Lake.

One of the unique buildings in the park is the restored one-room Stanley Schoolhouse. The current building was constructed in 1915 and was the fourth school in the same location since 1848. In Indiana, schools were originally placed in the center of four sections within a township. The idea was to prevent children from having to walk more than two miles to get to school. As school systems developed and consolidated, the schoolhouse went from serving grades one through eight to serving grades four through six. The 1954 public school year was its last.

The Department of Conservation, the precursor of the Department of Natural Resources, recommended the natural lake area located in Noble County's Green Township as a future state park site. A year later the Indiana General Assembly supported the process of land acquisition and park development. With the backing of the commissioners of Noble, Whitley and Allen counties, a joint county park board purchased 1,200 acres for the project, while the state acquired about 300 additional acres. The park was dedicated on June 12, 1960.

When Chain O'Lakes State Park was being established in the 1950s, the area was populated by farms, mostly orchards and pasture, and families with lake cabins. Today there are 18 modern cabins and a 413-site shaded campground with up to 50-amp electric service.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- **BOATS & CANOES**—Boats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboats are rented by the hour or day. Life jackets are also available. Only electric trolling motors are allowed.
- **CAMPING**—Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Most sites accommodate trailers. Electricity and dump stations available. A rally campground and youth group tent camp area are available. Camping reservations available through the Central Reservation System.
- **FAMILY CABINS**—Family cabins may be rented from April through October. Cabins are rented by the week from Saturday to Saturday during June, July and August. They may be rented by the night during April, May, September and October. Cabins are non-smoking and pets are prohibited. Cabins are not rented to persons younger than 21.
- **FISHING**—Bass, bluegill and other small gamefish are common. A state fishing license, which may be purchased at the park headquarters, is required.
- **GENERAL STORE**—Located in the campground. Firewood, ice, groceries and souvenirs available.
- **HIKING**—More than 29 miles of easy to rugged hiking trails are available.
- **INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. A Naturalist is available year-round. Program schedules are available at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov and 260-636-2654.
- **PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields.
- **REFRESHMENT STAND**—Soft drinks, ice cream and snacks are available at the beach refreshment stand. Operating hours are posted.
- **SHELTERS**—Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.
- **STANLEY SCHOOLHOUSE**—Built in 1915, the schoolhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit and take a step back in time for free. Open weekends from May-October.
- **SWIMMING**—There is no charge for swimming. The bathhouse and beach are open the Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day.
- **TELEPHONE**—Public phones are located near the campground control station and the beach.
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**—Activities and facilities information is available at the park headquarters.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Pets are not allowed in the family cabins or their immediate vicinity.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests shall put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to the beach at Sand Lake.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- The park is closed 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., except to campers at their site and cabin guests with a receipt or key.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, visit the property office or go online at:
on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

For a full list/map of all DNR properties visit on.IN.gov/recguide or on.IN.gov/recfinder.


Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site

Author, photographer, naturalist and entrepreneur Gene Stratton-Porter was a woman ahead of her time. Her cabin at Wildflower Woods is nestled on the shores of Sylvan Lake amongst 148 acres of fields, woods, and beautiful formal gardens.

Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area

boating, boat ramps, dog training areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching


CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.
Call: **1-866-6campIN** (1-866-622-6746)
Online: **camp.IN.gov**

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone.
Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371)
Online: **IndianalInns.com**

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Chain O'Lakes State Park
2355 E. 75 South
Albion, IN 46701
Call: 260-636-2654
Online: on.IN.gov/chainolakessp

**CARRY IN**

**CARRY OUT**

Please carry out all trash you produce to help keep the property clean and beautiful for all to enjoy!



FOLLOW US











OUTDOOR INDIANA

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit **OutdoorIndiana.org** or call 317-233-3046.

For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 1	1.5 miles	Moderate
Begins north of campground, follows a ridge through the woods before dropping down in a valley, crosses two channels as it circles around the north side of Dock Lake, and returns to the campground.		
Trail 2	1 mile	Moderate
Begins at the parking lot on the north shore of Bowen Lake, drops down and follows the lakeshore through the woods and returns to the parking lot.		
Trail 3	1.3 miles	Easy
Connects campground to the beach and nature center.		
Trail 4	5.7 miles	Moderate
Passes four lakes, wooded areas, swamps and deep ravines.		
Trail 5	1.3 miles	Easy
Follows shore around Sand Lake; flat and wooded.		
Trail 6	3 miles	Moderate
Trail 6 can be accessed from the cabins, campground or Dock Lake boat ramp. Follows the southern shoreline of both Dock and Long lakes, and the channel between the two.		
Trail 7	2 miles	Easy
Begins at Sand Lake fishing pier, follows the channel to Bowen Lake, turns west to connect with Weber Lake and returns along the channel to Sand Lake. It winds through lowlands, along two different channels, and through an upland forest.		
Trail 8	1.5 mile	Moderate
A self-guided nature trail (brochure provided), begins at Stanley Schoolhouse, circles Finster Lake and crosses a glacial kame, and returns to the schoolhouse.		
Trail 9	1.3 miles	Rugged
Starts at the schoolhouse parking area, travels through the Henslow's sparrow restoration area open field, through a wetland, to the top of wooded glacial esker, and around Kreiger Lake, a beautiful small kettle lake.		
Trail 10	2.5 miles	Moderate
This trail travels through open rolling hills, making it excellent for cross-country skiing in the winter.		
Trail 11	4.4 miles	Easy
Connects the Stanley Schoolhouse and Youth Group Tent/Rally campgrounds. This turf-covered trail is excellent for cross-country running or skiing.		
Trail 12	3.5 miles	Moderate
Begins and ends at beach, travels through glacial topography, hardwood forest, and follows ridgeline of a deep ravine with a meandering stream.		

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.
BICYCLES PROHIBITED ON HIKING TRAILS.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

on.IN.gov/stateparks

CHAIN O'LAKES STATE PARK



This is a small boaters paradise and hikers haven in lake country. Nine connecting lakes are the center of your adventures at Chain O'Lakes. Paddle through the chain of serene kettle lakes, hike the 29 miles of forested trails, fish the electric-motors-only lakes, stay overnight in a hillside family cabin, visit the park's historic one-room schoolhouse, or explore the Nature Center. Other facilities available for visitors to enjoy include a campground, beach and picnic shelters.

One of the most interesting features at Chain O'Lakes is its shape, about two miles wide and four miles long. Within its boundaries are 2,718 acres, including 212 surface acres of water and more than seven miles of varying shoreline.

The park owes much of its surface form and geologic makeup to the action of glaciers during the Ice Age (Pleistocene Epoch). The effects of the most recent major ice advance, the continental glacier of the Wisconsin Age, are evident. The steeply rolling hills, bogs and interconnected lakes bear witness to

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