Boats & Canoes—Boats, canoes, kayaks and pedal boats are available at the park headquarters. Life jackets are also available. Only electric trolling motors are allowed.

Camping—Campground equipped with flush toilets and hot showers is available year-round. Campers are required to purchase a campsite permit. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inn and inn-operated camps can be made online or by phone: 1-877-hodges1 (1-877-563-4371). Online: IndianaInns.com

Picnic Areas—Tables, charcoal grills, pit and playground equipment are available.

Refreshment Stand—Soft drinks, ice cream and snacks are available at the beach refreshment stand.

Shelters—Reservations for shelters are available throughout the year through the Central Reservation System.

Stanley Schoolhouse—Built in 1915, the schoolhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit and take a step back in time for a unique experience. Open weekends from May-October.

Swimming—There is no charge for swimming. The swimming area and open beach are open the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Telephone—Public phones are located near the campground.

Additional Information—For activities and facilities available at the park headquarters.

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

Rules and Regulations:
- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, fish, bird, or animal before returning to a natural state.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear guns, crossbows, or any air park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- 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 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 use areas. Garbage and trash can be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on paved roadway.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- Metal detection is not permitted.

Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose.

Swimming is limited to the beach at Sand Lake.

Paddle through the chain of serene kettle lakes, hike the 29 miles of forested trails, fish the electric-motor-only lakes, stay overnight in a hillside 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 popular fishing features at Chain O'Lakes is its shape, about two miles wide and four miles long. Within its boundaries are 212 surface acres of water and more than seven miles of varying shoreline.

The park offers 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 the massive ice sheets that advanced over and then melted from this area. 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 melting glacier melted away, leaving a depression, rivers resulting from melting ice carved the channels, which connect nine of the 13 lakes in the park.

Before its settlement by pioneers, the area was inhabited by Native Americans, such as the Miami. A village of about 120 bark-wigwam houses stood on the north shore of what was once called Indian Lake. William Bowen was one of the first settlers in the area in the 1820s. In 1840 he constructed a home on the north shore of the lake, which eventually became known as Bowen Lake. On the outskirts of the small town, the restored one-room Stanley Schoolhouse.

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