

# PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

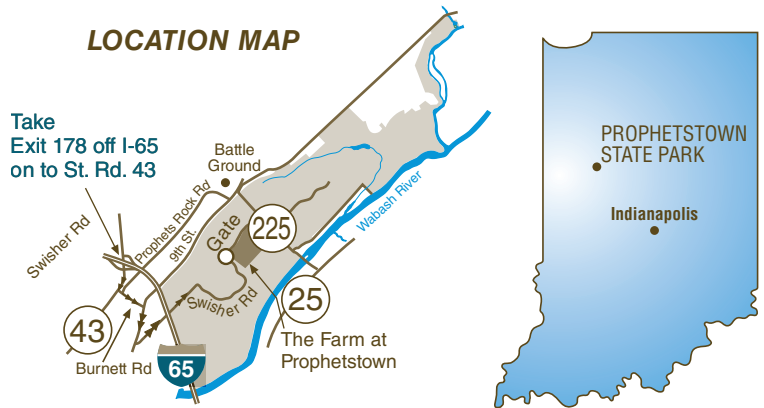
5545 Swisher Road • West Lafayette, IN 47906 • (765) 567-4919  
Established 2004

## WARNINGS

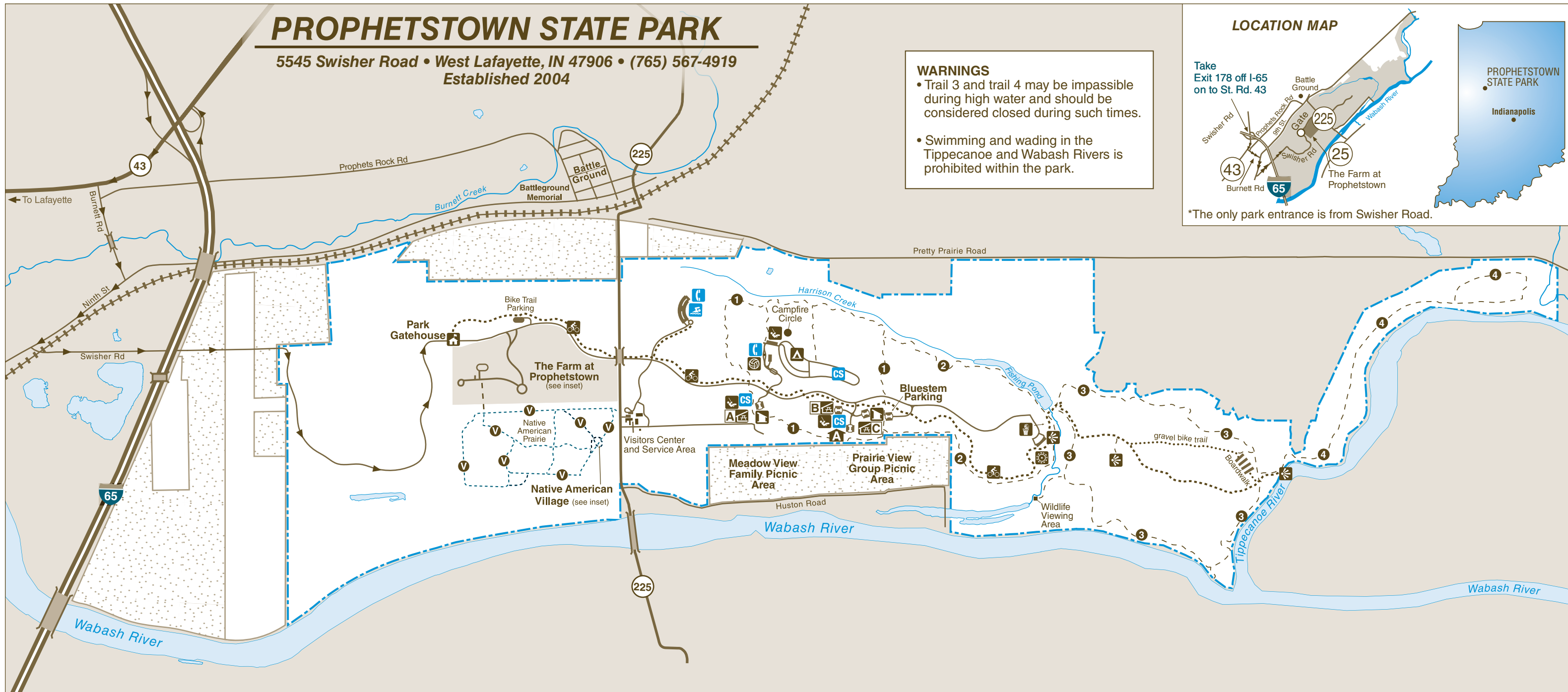
- Trail 3 and trail 4 may be impassible during high water and should be considered closed during such times.
- Swimming and wading in the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers is prohibited within the park.

## LOCATION MAP

Take Exit 178 off I-65 on to St. Rd. 43



\*The only park entrance is from Swisher Road.



### Power of the Prairie: Roots!

**Did you know that approximately 70% of the average prairie plant is roots?** The leaves, stems and flowers account for only about a third of the total living matter. Some prairie plants are known to have roots that exceed twenty feet deep!

*Power of the Prairie: Roots!* is a reprint from the Prairie Nursery Publication.

### The Farm at Prophetstown

Machine Shed, Corn Crib, Chicken Coop, Model T Garage, Smoke House, Welcome Center, Parking, Public Restroom, Blacksmith, Farm Barn, Gibson Farmhouse.

\*Tours start at the Welcome Center.

### Native American Village

Granary, Council House, Wigwam, Chief's Cabin, Medicine Lodge, To Visitors Center.

**Native American Village Legend**  
Walking Path

### SHELTERS

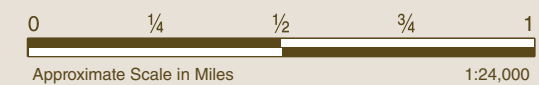
A	Bobolink
B	Bergamot
C	Blazingstar
A	Coneflower Rec. Building

### TRAIL TABLE

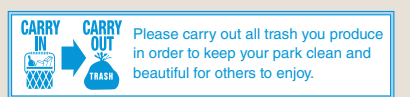
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2.25	Easy
2	1.9	Moderate
3	3.5	Moderate
4	3.2	Easy
V-Village	8	Easy

### LEGEND

	Boundary		911 Call Box
	Road		Vault Toilet
	Hiking Trail		Playground
	Bike Trail		Picnic Shelter
	Village Trails		Basketball Court
	Future Park Area		Campground
	Aquatic Center		Sports Field
	Comfort Station		Scenic Viewpoint
	Gatehouse		Circle of Stones



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William Henry Harrison, then governor of the Indiana Territory, was alarmed by the numbers settling at Prophetstown. He moved 1,200 troops near the site of Prophetstown. The people of Prophetstown, wanting to avoid a fight, yet fearing an attack, decided to strike first in the early morning hours of Nov. 7, 1811. Called the Battle of Tippecanoe, the fighting lasted just two hours. The villagers withdrew through the marsh back to Prophetstown, then fled to Wildcat Creek. Harrison's men burned Prophetstown to the ground.

The park's namesake, Prophetstown, is just one piece of cultural history from this land. Prophetstown is equally rich in natural history and geologic history. Over time, this land has been shaped by ice, water, fire and human hands.

The glaciers made their mark first. Vast quantities of ice moved slowly across this place at least three times, carving the land into gently rolling topography. As the ice receded, rocks carried from the northern part of our continent were left behind. These range in size from large boulders called glacial erratics to the abundant gravel and sand deposits mined commercially today.

As the ice melted, river channels and streams formed. Some waterways formed on the surface. Others became the basis of ample groundwater supply below the surface.

A gravel and soil "dam" holding back glacial Lake Maumee, north of what is now Fort Wayne may have burst, cascading water southwest. This affected the flow and direction of the Wabash River and further carved the landscape. The Tippecanoe River meets the Wabash just upstream from the state park, creating a seasonal wetland that is now an attractive stopping place for shorebirds and waterfowl.

A unique glacial feature of the park is the presence of fens, a type of wetland created when groundwater rich in calcium seeps from a slope and runs downhill.

Rich soil formed over the glacial deposits. The climate was right for the development of vast prairies. Wildflowers flourished among the grasses. Plants dried quickly each season, and fire, generally caused by lightning, released nutrients stored in the massive quantity of flower and grass stems.

Native people learned to use fire to maintain the prairie landscape for hunting. European settlers discovered the rich soil's capacity for growing corn and wheat. Today, the region is part of "America's breadbasket." Original remnants of the tallgrass prairie are found only in cemeteries and along railroad tracks, where soil was left unturned.

Restoring the prairie is a vital part of the mission at Prophetstown. Each year, a few more acres of soil are replanted with a vast array of native grasses and wildflowers. Many of the wildflowers start in the greenhouses located at the park office. Eventually, as much as two-thirds of the park will resemble the landscape seen by our ancestors. We also are removing non-native trees and replanting oaks and other species that were found along river bluffs and in the open woodlands, often called savannas.

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**BIKE/HIKING TRAIL**—The 12-foot-wide asphalt trail is more than 5 miles long and extends to the Tippecanoe River.

**CAMPING**—The first portion of the family campground provides 110 sites, 55 with full electric, sewer and water hookups at each site. The campground has a large comfort station with modern restrooms and shower facilities, including a family restroom. The campground has one-way asphalt roads and fine stone spurs and living areas. All sites are accessible and reservable. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) or call 1-866-6campIN.

**HIKING**—There are more than 9 miles of hiking trails from easy to moderate.

**PICNIC AREAS**—**Prairie View** group picnic area has two large picnic shelters, a recreation building and modern restrooms. Each shelter has picnic tables and one large outside grill. Paved walks connect all picnic shelters, parking lots, restrooms and a large accessible playground. A paved bike/hiking trail connects the Prairie View group picnic area with other areas of the park. The Prairie View group picnic area is reservable. Parking is available for 120 vehicles.

**Meadow View** family picnic area has a shelter with tables, modern restrooms, an accessible playground and large outdoor grill. The Meadow View family picnic area connects with the bike trail and is reservable. Parking is available for 40 vehicles.

**SHELTERS AND RECREATION BUILDING**—Reservations are available at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) or by calling 1-866-6campIN. Shelters available are Bobolink, Bergamot, Blazingstar. Recreation building available is Coneflower.

## DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- **Bryan Woods Nature Preserve**-hiking trails, parking

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.



**THE FARM AT PROPHETSTOWN**—The Farm at Prophetstown is a non-profit organization that, in a unique partnership with DNR, operates a sustainable, small-scale working farm within the park. Visitors can step back in time at The Farm to fully appreciate this important part of Indiana history.

Write: The Farm at Prophetstown  
P.O. Box 331  
Battle Ground, IN 47920  
Call: (765) 567-4700

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> 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. Pick up pet waste.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups are permitted in the family campground.
- 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 must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- 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.
- Pull off roads while observing wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the DNR. Swimming in the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

## THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

### Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

## 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](http://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](http://IndianalInns.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Prophetstown State Park  
4112 E. State Road 225  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
(see GPS address)

Call: 765-567-4919  
Online: [on.IN.gov/prophetstownsp](http://on.IN.gov/prophetstownsp)  
Map Address: 5545 Swisher Rd  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

## SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.

For a list of park events, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov)



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

[@INdnrstateparksandreservoirs](https://www.facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs) [@indianadnr](https://www.instagram.com/indianadnr) [@INDNRstateparks](https://twitter.com/INDNRstateparks)

See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

**OUTDOOR INDIANA** Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit [OutdoorIndiana.org](http://OutdoorIndiana.org) or call 317-233-3046.

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## DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
<b>Trail 1</b>	2.25 miles	Easy
Starts at the Meadow View family picnic parking lot and winds through a former Christmas tree plantation of Douglas fir and then snakes its way through tallgrass prairie, adjacent to the Prairie View group picnic area, with big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem, side oats grama, and black-eyed Susan. The trail continues into a fen and meanders through a marshy area, where you may get your feet wet, before entering a field being invaded by osage orange, wild cherry, mulberry, and multiflora rose. The trail ends at the Meadow View family picnic area parking lot.		
<b>Trail 2</b>	1.9 mile	Moderate
Begins on Trail 1, north of the Blazingstar picnic shelter in the Prairie View group picnic area. The trail meanders through the tallgrass prairie before entering a shaded path along scenic Harrison Creek. Wildflowers treat hikers to a display of color as the trail winds through a mixed deciduous forest, past a pond formed by Harrison Creek, and into the fen. The trail continues through a mature sycamore grove before merging with Trail 1 at the fen boardwalk north of the campground.		
<b>Trail 3</b>	3 miles	Moderate
Begins off Trail 2 near the east end of the pond and follows a gravel road leading to the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers where the trail becomes a dirt path. Before reaching the rivers while walking through a large, floodplain prairie, one can observe large wetland restoration projects, a large bottomland forest replacement tree planting, and a river bank stabilization project along the Wabash River; a joint effort between the DNR and INDOT. The trail leads along the Tippecanoe River, across a bottomland prairie and leads hikers to a contour trail providing stunning overlooks of perched fens formed by many hillside seeps. The trail ends near the starting point of the trail just uphill from the north end of the pond. This trail closes during flood events.		
<b>Trail 4</b>	3.2 miles	Easy
Begins at Trail 3 near the Tippecanoe River and meanders through a heavily shaded floodplain forest following the river until entering into a floodplain prairie. The trail leads hikers to the furthest northern boundary of the park where it returns upon the same path back to the trail 3. This trail closes during flood events.		
<b>Bike/Hiking Trail</b>	5 miles	Easy
This paved trail starts at the park gatehouse. The trail runs through the park connecting all current facilities, and meets up with the Tippecanoe River.		

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.**

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

PROPHETSTOWN  
STATE PARK



Prophetstown State Park sits at the edge of a tallgrass prairie that greeted American Indians and European settlers who first lived in what is now northwestern Indiana. A vast sea of tallgrass stretched as far as the eye could see. Small, open oak woodlands dotted the prairie landscape. Steep, narrow bluffs dropped to connecting rivers.

Because of the diverse landscape, native people called this land home and were willing to fight to stay.

Prophetstown State Park is named for the village located between the rivers established by two Shawnee brothers in 1808. Tenskwatawa, also known as The Prophet, was the spiritual leader of the tribal community. His brother, Tecumseh, commanded the settlement's war efforts. The brothers led their group there from Ohio after pressure from white settlers had forced them to leave. Tecumseh believed the only way to repel the advance of European settlement was to form an alliance with other tribes. More than 14 tribes set aside centuries-old disputes in an effort to stop their common enemy.

stateparks.IN.gov