



Indiana State Parks sample volunteer project list

Properties are listed alphabetically. Each list has suggestions from properties, and the list can change depending on the season. Not all properties are listed, but similar activities are available in most locations. If you cannot find your favorite DNR property or have questions with what you see, contact the volunteer coordinator at that property.

Brookville Lake-Whitewater Memorial State Park, (765) 647-2657

Projects individual volunteers or groups (like scouts) can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas (including Adopt-A-Ramp)
- Lakeshore cleanup
- Plant trees
- Trail maintenance (and Adopt-A-Trail) or mapping
- Campground or nature center host
- Naturalist aide/activity aide
- Flower bed maintenance
- Wildlife surveys
- Invasive species removal/control
- Structure maintenance (painting, carpentry work)
- Build bird feeders or bird houses
- Build bat boxes
- Disperse salt blocks for wildlife
- Build fish attractors
- Nuisance goose control
- Maintain hunter check-in boxes
- Maintain property signs
- Present a program: outdoor skills (camping, paddling, outdoor ethics, outdoor safety), swimming lessons, musical or dramatic (storytelling) entertainment, cooking, art/crafting, history, science, hunter safety/education

Projects a family can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas (including Adopt-A-Ramp)
- Lakeshore cleanup
- Plant trees
- Trail maintenance (and Adopt-A-Trail) or mapping
- Campground or nature center host

- Naturalist aide/activity aide
- Flower bed maintenance
- Wildlife surveys
- Structure maintenance (painting, carpentry work)
- Build bird feeders or bird houses (wood duck boxes, bluebird houses, etc.)
- Build bat boxes
- Disperse salt blocks for wildlife
- Build fish attractors

Brown County State Park, (812) 988-5240

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Host at nature center
- Several display/exhibit projects in nature center
- Weed/mulch interpretive garden, flower beds at park office, garden by nature center bee hive, camper booth
- Gatehouses
- Maintain bird viewing area (fountain upkeep, feeder repairs, clean glass, and etc.)
- Fire tower host
- Keep all trailhead boxes stocked with maps
- Update sign inventory in old barn
- Exotic plant removal
- Help with camper booth check-ins
- Hand tool inventory and maintenance
- Laminate flyers to post on bulletin boards
- Organize/inventory all interpretive handouts

Projects a family can do:

- Clean all interpretive kiosk panels
- Check all trail signs for proper location, condition, etc.
- Check for nails on all boardwalks, bridges, stairs, etc.
- Exotic plant removal
- Trash pickup at both lake parking lots, shelters, trails and vistas
- Pass out program schedules to campers
- Sort out stored recyclables
- Install property boundary signs where practical
- Clean nature center

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Move boardwalks to Lake Ogle trail
- Carry out all broken picnic tables from both lakes
- Walk all roadsides for trash; trash pick-up all other areas
- Move rip-rap to eroded areas
- Straighten all split rails, road chevrons, etc.
- Exotic plant removal
- Clean out all bird, bat houses
- Help distribute gravel where needed

- Trail vegetation-trimming
- Install new mulch in nature center bird area
- Fence-painting
- Install lakeshore trail erosion bars/replant vegetation

Charlestown State Park, (812) 256-5600

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Pick up litter along hiking trails

Projects a family and groups (like scouts) can do:

- Pick up litter along Fourteen-mile Creek and the Ohio River

Clifty Falls State Park, (812) 273-0609

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Nature center hosting/assistance
- Special events assistance
- Landscape stewardship

Projects a family can do:

- Nature center landscape
- Creek cleanup

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Trail maintenance
- Resource management/invasive control
- Property landscape stewardship
- Creek cleanup
- Boundary and fence maintenance

Falls of the Ohio State Park, (812) 280-9970

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Flower bed maintenance
- Exotic plant removal
- Clean interpretive kiosk panels
- Trash pickup on Woodland Loop Trail
- Hammer nails on deck
- Clean pump in fish pond
- Clean bulletin boards, remove old or faded materials
- Trim plants growing into steps to fossil beds, sweep sand and rocks off

Projects a family or scout group can do:

- Flower bed maintenance
- Exotic plant removal
- Trail maintenance
- Trash pickup on riverbank
- Trash pickup at boat ramp
- Sort out stored recyclables
- Remove bird seed hulls from below feeders

- Trash pickup on fossil beds (particularly from fishermen)
- Remove smaller riprap and logs covering upper fossil beds below the Interpretive Center
- Move small picnic tables back to shade locations in picnic area/by collecting piles

Fort Harrison State Park, (317) 591-0122

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Trail patrol for unleashed dogs
- Litter pick up

Projects a family can do:

- Litter patrol along Fall Creek

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Eagle Scout level candidates can bring large troop-level numbers of scouts to supervise for the cutting and spraying of the Asian bush honeysuckle in the historic Walnut Plantation or across the state park where there are large clumps of honeysuckle

Hardy Lake, (812) 794-3800

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Lake Sweep event on April 24
- Help with cleaning and maintenance at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center
- Help care for permanently injured birds of prey, including feeding
- Help care for rehabilitating birds of prey, including feeding and medical treatment
- Help raise and care for rats and mice and rabbits used as a food source for birds of prey
- Help offer interpretive programming on and off property. We are always looking for people that have unique hobbies that can be shared with the public; i.e.: birding, crafts, hiking, etc

Projects a family can do:

- Lake Sweep event April 24

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Lake Sweep event April 24

Harmonie State Park, (812) 682-4821

Projects individual volunteers, families or groups (like scouts) can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas
- General trail maintenance and minor improvements
- Help at the nature center
- Help with special events
- Flower bed maintenance
- Pond clean up and maintenance
- Minor structure maintenance (painting, carpentry work)
- Check the blue bird boxes
- Invasive species removal/control
- Structure maintenance (painting, carpentry work)
- Share your talents and present a program: camping, fishing, outdoor ethics, outdoor safety, musical, storytelling, cooking, crafting, history, science, etc.

- Teach water aerobics class in the summer when the pool is open

Indiana Dunes State Park, (219) 926-1390

Projects individual volunteers and families can do:

- Garlic mustard pulling
- Beach clean up
- Weekend nature center staffing
- Nighttime owl banding project volunteers (March, October)

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Same as above
- Small foot bridge construction (must provide materials)

Lieber State Recreation Area, (765) 795-4576 or 3552

Projects individual volunteers, families, or groups can do:

- Litter pickup
- Take/deliver messages
- Housekeeping
- Provide security
- Clean fire rings
- Make minor electrical repairs
- Traffic control
- Volunteer and staff nature center
- Assist with special events and other duties as assigned

Lincoln State Park and Col. Jones Home (812) 937-4710

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Invasive species management
- Pick up litter
- Assist at the nature center, including clean reptile cages
- Help maintain herb garden at Col. Jones Home
- Cut fire lines
- Col. Jones Home host
- Nature center host
- Hike trails collecting litter.
- Clean interpretive signs throughout the park

Projects a family can do:

- Assist with invasive species management program
- Pick up litter
- Assist with operations at the nature center, including cleaning reptile cages
- Help maintain herb garden at Col. Jones Home
- Plant native trees
- Work on bulletin boards
- Col. Jones Home host
- Hike trails collecting litter

- Clean interpretive signs throughout the park

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Invasive species management
- Pick up litter
- Acquire and plant native trees
- Assist with fall events during October
- Cut fire lines
- Hike trails collecting litter.
- Clean out fire rings
- Spread mulch on playgrounds
- Trim Trails

McCormick's Creek State Park, (812) 829-4344

Projects individual volunteers and groups (like scouts) can do:

- Hike the creek and collect litter
- Hike trails and collect litter

Projects a family can do:

- Assist nature center to clean birdfeeders, feed birds
- Hike trails and collect litter

Mississinewa Lake, (765) 473-6528

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Litter pick up
- Repair picnic tables
- Trail work
- Resource management
- Paint structures
- Assist in special events
- Pick up rocks at beach
- Assist staff as needed

Projects a family and groups (like scouts) can do:

- Walk trails for litter
- Pickup sticks in camp areas
- Trail work
- Resource management
- Paint structures
- Assist in special events
- Pick up rocks at beach
- Assist staff as needed

Monroe Lake, contact Paynetown Activity Center at (812) 837-9967

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Citizen Scientist (assist with flora/fauna research)
- Adopt-a-Shoreline (commit to monthly trash pickup at shoreline area)

- Program Assistant (help with events, assist/present at programs/hikes, make contacts with campers and other visitors, help at Activity Center)
- Hands-on Workdays (natural resource projects, facility projects, shoreline cleanup, etc.)

Projects a family can do:

- Adopt-a-Shoreline (commit to monthly trash pickup at shoreline area)
- Hands-on Workdays (natural resource projects, facility projects, shoreline cleanup, etc.)

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Hands-on Workdays (natural resource projects, facility projects, shoreline cleanup, etc.)

Mounds State Park, (765) 649-8128

Projects individual volunteers, families, or groups (like scouts) can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas
- Naturalist aide/activity aide
- Invasive species removal/control
- Maintain bird viewing area (fill feeders, clean glass, etc.)
- Special events assistance including Pioneer Day
- Assist with operations at the nature center including cleaning aquariums and reptile cages
- Grant writing

O'Bannon Woods State Park, (812) 738-8234

Projects individual volunteers, families or a group (like scouts) can do:

- Pick up trash at any of the four canoe access sites
- Remove brush and limbs off trails
- Pull weeds at the nature center gardens
- Clean livestock pens
- Assist in spreading lime on accessible trail
- Spread sand in pond for accessible trail
- Stack and load firewood

Ouabache State Park, (260) 824-0926

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Trim brush along hiking/bike trails
- Maintain all flower beds
- Assist with special events
- Assist with resource management projects
- Pick up litter throughout the property, including trails
- Bundle firewood for sale to campers
- Clean up trash, debris, etc. along the bank of the Wabash River

Projects a family can do:

- Litter/trash clean up
- Trim brush along hiking/bike trails
- Maintain all flower beds
- Assist with special events

- Assist with resource management projects

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Trim brush along hiking/bike trails
- Bundle firewood
- Clean up along the banks of the Wabash River
- Assist with resource management projects

Patoka Lake, (812) 685-2447

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Patoka Lake Cleanup in September
- Litter cleanup
- Campground host
- Moery Cabin host
- Naturalist aide
- Flowerbed maintenance/gardening
- Invasive species removal
- Present a program: We are always looking for people to share their hobbies and passions with the public. I.E. outdoor skills (camping, outdoor ethics, outdoor safety etc.) local history, campfire cooking, birding, hiking, arts/crafts, and more.
- Update or maintain bulletin boards in campgrounds
- Special event assistance

Projects a family can do:

- Patoka Lakeshore Cleanup in September
- Litter cleanup
- Campground host
- Moery Cabin host
- Flowerbed maintenance/gardening
- Invasive species removal
- Present a program: We are always looking for people to share their hobbies and passions with the public. I.E. outdoor skills (camping, outdoor ethics, outdoor safety etc.) local history, campfire cooking, arts/crafts, recreational, and more.
- Update or maintain bulletin boards in campgrounds
- Special event assistance

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Patoka Lake Cleanup in September
- Litter cleanup
- Flowerbed maintenance/gardening
- Invasive species removal
- Update or maintain bulletin boards in campgrounds
- Special event assistance

Pokagon State Park, (260) 833-2012

Projects for individuals, small groups, and families:

- Litter clean up on trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and other public areas
- Litter clean up along two beaches and shorelines

- Flower bed maintenance/watering in summer
- Invasive species removal/control
- Garlic mustard pulling in early growing season until seeds dry
- Cutting and treating stumps of invasive shrubs. For qualified individuals only. Some training needed.
- Donate materials (peanut butter, cornmeal, shortening) and make bird dough for nature center feeders.
- At Trine SRA, help clean and wipe down boats that have been rented

Potato Creek State Park, (574) 656-8186

Projects individual volunteers and groups (like Scouts) can do:

- Trash pick up
- Invasive plant control
- Trail trimming
- Adopt-A-Trail volunteers (six-month commitment)

Projects a family can do:

- Trash pick up
- Invasive plant control

Prophetstown State Park, (765) 567-4919

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Pulling garlic mustard
- Pick up trash
- Harvesting wildflower seeds
- Manicuring wildflower beds and islands
- Maintain bulletin boards
- Garden work at the Native American village
- Assist naturalist with programs and special events
- Feeding and cleaning of educational animals (reptiles and amphibians)
- Assist interpreter at weekly farmer's market booth (May-July)
- Assist with greenhouse operations (February-June)

Projects a family can do:

- Pulling garlic mustard
- Pulling sweet clover
- Harvesting wildflower seeds
- Adopt a trail
- Asian bush honeysuckle removal

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Replacing wood duck boxes
- Making more Eastern bluebird boxes
- Trash pickup along Tippecanoe and Wabash
- Maintain boardwalk over wet areas
- Asian bush honeysuckle removal

- Assist with other resource management projects

Raccoon State Recreation Area, (765) 344-1412

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Assist the interpreter with programs/bulletin boards, etc.
- Maintain all flower beds
- Assist with special events
- Assist with resource management projects
- Pick up litter throughout the park including trails
- Monitor and clean restrooms/comfort stations as needed or after hours
- Assist with Recycle program
- Clean up trash, etc. along the shoreline of Cecil M. Harden Lake

Projects a family can do:

- Litter pick up
- Assist the interpreter with programs/bulletin boards, etc.
- Maintain all flower beds
- Assist with special events
- Assist with recycle program
- Assist with resource management projects

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Trim hiking trails
- Clean up along the shore line of Cecil M. Harden Lake
- Assist with special events
- Assist with resource management projects

Salamonie Lake, (260) 468-2125

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Pick up litter at boat ramps
- Paint signs and structures
- Pick up litter on horse trails and hiking trails
- Invasive plant control
- Pull weeds in flowerbeds
- Walk trails to remove downed branches and check on trail signs
- Assist interpreters with program preparations
- Pick up litter along shorelines by boat

Projects a family can do:

- Adopt a trail
- Paint signs and structures
- Split firewood
- Invasive plant control
- Pick up litter on horse trails and hiking trails
- Pick up litter along shorelines by boat
- Provide property with photos of fish your family caught or game harvested

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Adopt a trail

- Repair trail structures
- Repair picnic tables
- Split firewood
- Paint signs and structures
- Invasive plant control

Shades State Park, (765) 597-2654

Projects individual volunteers or families can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas, or
- Adopt a trail
- Help set up, put on and tear down June and September special events
- Become a campground rover on Friday and Saturday evenings, meeting and welcoming campers and promoting weekend programs
- Create bulletin board displays

Projects a group (like scouts) can do:

- Remove invasive plants
- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas, or
- Adopt a trail

Shakamak State Park, (812) 665-2158

Projects individual volunteers or families can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas
- Remove brush and limbs off trails and in campground
- Be a nature center host
- Help clean nature center
- Prepare and clean bulletin boards (materials provided)
- Flower bed planting or maintenance
- Special events assistance

Projects a group (like scouts) can do:

- Removing invasive plants
- Building or maintaining bat boxes
- Building bluebird boxes
- Assist with special events
- Trail or campground clean up

Spring Mill State Park, (812) 849-3534 or springmillstatepark@dnr.IN.gov

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Help with design and upkeep of displays/exhibit projects at the Lakeview Activity Center
- Weed/mulch interpretive garden at the nature center
- Help village staff with craft program preparation
- Exotic plant removal
- Post flyers on bulletin boards
- Pick up trash on trails

- Naturalist aide/activity aide (nature center or Pioneer Village)
- Help with special events
- Clean nature center
- Clean all bulletin boards in the park

Projects a family can do:

- Check all trail signs for proper location, condition, etc.
- Check for nails on all boardwalks, bridges, stairs, etc.
- Exotic plant removal
- Trash pickup at parking lots, shelters and trails.
- Clean Lakeview Activity Center
- Clean all bulletin boards in the park

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Exotic plant removal
- Help distribute gravel where needed
- Trail vegetation-trimming
- Bundle firewood

Summit Lake State Park, (765) 766-5873

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Flower bed preparation, trail clean up

Projects a family can do:

- Flower bed preparation, trail clean up, ready pumpkin patch

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Trail clean up
- Campground clean up
- Youth Tent area clean up
- Remove old split rail fence at entrance and fill holes from posts
- Bark chip around campground trees
- Replace boundary signs

Tippecanoe River State Park, (574) 946-3213

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- River cleanup
- Volunteer at nature center
- Special events assistance
- Assist naturalist with programs
- Campground cleanup picking up limbs and raking leaves
- Resource inventories
- Birds and waterfowl inventories
- Maintain flower beds
- GPS trails
- Clean roadside trash
- Build bird and bat boxes

Projects a family can do:

- Build bat boxes
- River cleanup
- Fill bird boxes with food
- Paint property signs
- Clean nature center
- Maintain flower beds.
- Campground cleanup picking up limbs and raking leaves

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Build bat boxes
- Build wood duck boxes/maintain duck boxes
- Adopt a trail
- Build bird houses
- Resource management
- Build manure pits

Turkey Run State Park, (765) 597-2654

Projects individual volunteers or families can do:

- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas
- Adopt a trail
- Help set up, put on and tear down summer special events
- Become a campground rover, meeting and welcoming campers and promoting programs
- Create attractive bulletin board displays
- Be a nature center host
- Work in the heritage garden
- Take care of captive snakes and turtles
- Help with canoe and kayak events
- Be a campground host

Projects a group (like scouts) can do:

- Remove invasive plants
- Litter clean up on trails or in public areas, or
- Adopt a trail
- Work in the heritage garden
- Help with canoe and kayak events
- Help clean up the wildlife observation area
- Help with our Halloween event
- Help with our Eagles in Flight event

Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, (260) 468-2127

Interpretive volunteer projects at Mississinewa Lake, Salamonie Lake, Ouabache State Park and the Salamonie River State Forest

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Interpretive center host
- Display/exhibit care in interpretive center

- Landscaping maintenance
- Wildlife and native plant surveys
- Maintain bird viewing area (feeder repairs/cleaning, clean glass, pond care)
- Invasive species removal/control
- Build/maintain birdhouses
- Special events assistance
- Clean bulletin boards/ design bulletin board displays
- Organize/inventory interpretive handouts
- Presentations on topics: outdoor skills, history, arts, science, hunter education

Projects a family can do:

- Clean interpretive bulletin boards
- Invasive species removal/control
- Trash pickup - parking lots, shelters, trails and playgrounds
- Pass out program schedules to campers
- Interpretive animal care
- Clean interpretive program areas

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Eagle Scout level candidates can organize work projects to build structures, remove invasives, etc.
- Adopt-A-Trail clean-up
- Trail vegetation-trimming
- Install new mulch in interpretive center bird area
- Preparation for special events

Versailles State Park, (812) 689-6424

Projects individual volunteers can do:

- Maintain bird viewing area (fountain upkeep, feeder repairs, clean glass, and etc.)
- Keep all trailhead boxes stocked w/ maps
- Update sign inventory in sign shop at beach house
- Exotic plant removal
- Organize/inventory all interpretive handouts
- Clean out bluebird boxes
- Pick up loose ground litter throughout the park
- Clean out fire rings and picnic grills

Projects a family can do:

- Clean all interpretive kiosk panels
- Check all trail signs for proper location, condition, etc.
- Check for nails on all boardwalks, bridges, stairs, etc.
- Exotic plant removal
- Trash pickup at lake parking lots, shelters, trails and pool parking lot
- Pass out program schedules to campers
- Sort out stored recyclables
- Clean nature center

Projects a group (like scouts) volunteers can do:

- Carry out all broken picnic tables from lakeside
- Walk all roadsides for trash; trash pick-up all other areas
- Move rip-rap to eroded areas
- Straighten all split rails, road chevrons, etc.
- Exotic plant removal
- Assist with trail maintenance, erosion control, tree/brush removal, signage.