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# What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2025

Below is a snapshot work we have done to prepare for your visits. We have completed many other projects that will help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.

Our goal is to provide you with a great experience during every visit—to help you and your family and friends make memories naturally. Indiana State Parks are a great value, both in cost and as great places to get healthy, relax, and support local communities with tourism and jobs.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers who contribute thousands of dollars and hours of service. And our creative and dedicated employees work diligently to stretch what you receive for the dollars you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite or inn room, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

As you spend time in a state park this year, please practice responsible recreation. Plan ahead and make sure family and friends know where you are going. Prepare well for your outdoor experiences with the proper clothing, footwear and insect repellent, and bring plenty of water so you don't get dehydrated. Ensure any pets that travel with you remain on a 6-foot leash at all times. If camping, be considerate of your neighbors and leave your site better than you found it. And finally, take any trash you create in trails, picnic areas and on beaches home with you.

Get outside with family and friends or on your own. Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies and wetlands, and enjoy wildlife. Slow down for a few hours or days. You'll be glad you did. We'll see you soon!

## **Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex**

- Fairfield Marina has three new shuttle boats.
- An accessible ramp and beach mats have been added at the Mounds SRA beach.
- The women's restrooms were renovated at the Mounds SRA Beach House.
- Whitewater Memorial State Park boat rental has new paddleboats, kayaks, and canoes.
- The property's shooting range will be open Thursday-Sunday this season.
- Whitewater Memorial State Park's family campground has a new playground.

## **Brown County State Park**

- The CCC-built Peach Tree Shelter on Trail 10 has been restored.
- New pickleball courts are available adjacent to the tennis courts
- A new garden and sitting area have been added on the west side of the nature center.
- Wi-Fi has been installed at the comfort station in the horse camp.

## **Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)**

- Three new vault toilets were installed in the picnic area and Sunny Acres Campground.
- Lieber SRA is now connected to Cloverdale's municipal sewage system, and the wastewater treatment facility has been removed.
- A "Little Free Library" is now available at the nature center.
- A StoryWalk has been added to the garden trail behind the nature center.
- The park office and main gate have new native landscaping.
- New interpretive signs have been added at Lieber and Cataract Falls SRAs.
- A campground host site is now available in the non-electric campground.

## **Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)**

- Decking and walkways have been repaired at Mansfield Mill to improve access to the mill race and turbine pit.
- A bridge and staircase on Trail 3 were repaired.

- The camp store, 3 shelters and the campground gate were painted, and the gate has a new roof.
- The fish cleaning station has new fiberglass paneling.
- Invasive bush honeysuckle was removed from several areas in partnership with the Wabash River Invasives Project and the Parke County SWCD.
- At Portland Mills, a new roof was installed for the grindstone and town bell displays, and the Calvert Shelter was repainted.

### **Chain O'Lakes State Park**

- A Four Square court was installed in the campground play area near the volleyball court.
- A presentation area is ready for preschool programs at the Stanley Schoolhouse.
- Wayside signs were installed at the Mulberry one room schoolhouse and native village/Bowen homestead sites.
- Pollinator habitat is being created in the old playfield area southeast of the campground.
- Invasive tree-of-heaven was removed between the campground and Trail 10.
- The water softener system for campground drinking water was replaced and upgraded.
- Rainbow trout (400) were released into Sand Lake this spring.
- New backsplashes were installed behind kitchen counters in the family cabins.
- More than 300 RV Industry Association volunteers replaced family cabin flooring, built a firewood storage enclosure, built/stained 40 park benches, cleaned rental kayaks, stained fences, painted comfort stations and bridges, and more in a single day of work.

### **Charlestown State Park**

- The first 1,000 feet of Trail 4 were armored with flagstone and gravel to combat erosion and pooling thanks to the Friends of Charlestown State Park.
- Invasives were removed near the park office. The area will be replanted with native species.
- More than 50 acres of invasives were removed from the Ohio River Picnic Areas, and the acreage will be replanted with native species.

### **Clifty Falls State Park**

- The campground electricity was upgraded from 30 amp to 50 amp at sites.
- The campground now has 7 accessible sites.
- Invasive plants were removed on 18 acres in partnership with the Friends of Clifty Falls.
- An 80-acre prescribed fire was conducted along the Clifty pool road to prepare for pollinator plantings.
- A memorial bench was added at the nature center.
- Clifty Falls Centennial Challenge will begin in early summer.

### **Deam Lake SRA**

- New light switches were installed in many cabins for easier fan and light control.
- Some rent-a-camp cabins were painted, and all cabin beds were refinished by a volunteer.
- A dock is being moved to the boat ramp to assist with launching and pulling boats.
- Watch for a pollinator planting between Apple Orchard Shelter and day rider parking area.
- New mulch has been added to the beach playground.
- The Forest Education Center has a new bench at the bird observation area and some new exhibit elements.

### **Falls of the Ohio State Park**

- Improvements to the interpretive center's HVAC center are complete.
- The automatic door openers have been replaced at the interpretive center entrance.
- Several rotating displays in the river room are scheduled for installation this year.

### **Fort Harrison State Park**

- The Garrison Conference Center was renovated with new restrooms, carpet, paint, an upgraded HVAC system, and the addition of another meeting room.
- A new roof and gutters were installed at the Fort Harrison Inn.
- Flooring was replaced throughout the park's visitors center in Camp Glenn.

- New vertical support beams were installed at the park's gatehouse.

### **Hardy Lake**

- Wooster Boat Ramp has been reclassified as a canoe & kayak only launching ramp.
- A new playground is being installed at our beach area.
- Fresh playground mulch is being added to the beach and campground playgrounds.
- Watch for a new pollinator planting at the shelter house area near the beach in late spring.

### **Harmonie State Park**

- New borders and new mulch are being installed at playgrounds.
- Comfort Station 1 in the campground has a fresh coat of paint.

### **Indiana Dunes State Park**

- A new display in the nature center interprets Indigenous people in the Dunes region.
- The nature center interior was repainted and the exterior will be repainted this summer.
- The camp store was re-sided and painted.
- Several trail structures were reconstructed and updated.
- Two new accessible vault toilets were installed as replacements for aging toilets.
- Wayside signs throughout the park were replaced.
- Two large wayfinding signs on the main entrance road were updated and refreshed.
- The park will celebrate 100 years with events and with the addition of Indiana Dunes Centennial Challenge beginning in early summer.

### **Interlake OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)**

- A new retail display in the office now features ice cream and Interlake merchandise.
- New obstacles were added at Point of Interest #6.
- An accessible fire ring accommodating 15-20 guests was added by Big Kaite Picnic Shelter.
- A new property entrance sign was installed.
- Two one-acre pollinator sites were planted.

### **Lincoln State Park**

- Lincoln Amphitheatre seating was expanded from 1,500 to 2,200, and 300 parking spaces were added.
- A new entrance lane has been added at the park's front gate.
- A new Little Free Library is in the campground thanks to the Friends of Lincoln State Park.

### **McCormick's Creek State Park**

- An accessible vault toilet was installed at Friendly Shelter. Shelter repairs mean it is now rentable again.
- Repairs needed due to the 2023 tornado are underway for the Camp McCormick barracks.
- The Echo Canyon Trail with an accessible loop is open for visitors.
- McCormick's Creek's Centennial Challenge will begin in early summer.

### **Mississinewa Lake**

- Miami SRA has a new entrance sign.
- Forty-five acres of wildflowers were planted across the property.
- A 3-acre pond was restored at Frances Slocum SRA.
- More than 3,000 walleye (4-to-6-inch length) were released into the lake.
- A parking lot was added at the interpretive shelter for special events.
- The property more than doubled the accessible hunting areas and parking lots.
- The road at Trails End near the southeast end of the property was widened and resurfaced.

### **Monroe Lake**

- A new playground was installed at Big Oak Shelter in Fairfax SRA.
- All new boards and grab rails were installed at the Fairfax SRA courtesy dock.

- The Moore's Creek Boat Ramp will be improved in late spring. Work includes leveling the ramp's concrete.

### **Mounds State Park**

- The rental pavilion has new wall coverings and an update to the HVAC, including air conditioning.
- Several visitors center exhibits were repaired and updated.
- The pollinator meadow along the park entrance road was prepared and planted.

### **O'Bannon Woods State Park**

- Interpretive signs were updated throughout the property.
- New confidence maps ("You Are Here" signs) are being added at major trail intersections.
- Prescribed fire on 500 acres will benefit wildlife and oak/hickory regeneration.
- Comfort Station C in the modern campground got a new coat of paint.
- New gutters and downspouts were installed for the hay press barn at the nature center.
- A new barn was added for the oxen in the wastewater treatment plant corral.

### **Ouabache State Park**

- More than 50 hazardous trees were removed from the campground and picnic areas.
- Campsites 97-111 were enlarged to better accommodate RV awnings and improve open space for tent camping.
- Invasive, non-native wisteria was removed on 1.5 acres near the CCC worker statue.
- One sewage lift station was updated with new pumps, mounting equipment, and controls.

### **Patoka Lake**

- The camp store was completely renovated.
- Several fish habitat structures were added to the lake.
- New nature center displays were added, including one focused on Indigenous people.
- Fresh mulch was added at all playgrounds.
- New campground host sites have been converted to full-hookup status.

### **Pokagon State Park**

- The pool at Potawatomi Inn was renovated and is now open.
- A new sundeck was built for relaxing and watching Lake James at Potawatomi Inn.
- The park will celebrate its 100th Anniversary with events and the addition of the Centennial Challenge in early summer.

### **Potato Creek State Park**

- Sewer and water utilities were connected to North Liberty's municipal systems.
- The nature center has a new display interpreting Indigenous people of the region and wayside signage interpreting the park's farming history.
- A kayak launch is now available at the West Boat Launch, thanks to the Friends of Potato Creek State Park.
- Comfort stations in Loop E and the horse campground got a new coat of interior paint.
- Several cabins have refurbished wood stoves and new couches.
- Work continues on the Lodge at Potato Creek State Park.

### **Prophetstown State Park**

- Forestry mowing and tree removal are underway for the expansion of the campground.
- Trees near the campground entrance were removed to promote native oak regeneration.
- Trees were removed near Trail 2 and overlook deck to allow for native wildflower, grass, and sedge growth.
- Native wildflowers and grasses were planted for habitat restoration and visitor enjoyment.
- Trees are being planted above the fishing pond in an agricultural field as a part of DNR's Million Tree Project.

- A new roof will be installed at the park's visitors center.
- Work is underway to improve drainage around the campground playground to reduce water pooling.
- The Farm at Prophetstown added a non-public modern barn structure to store equipment.

### **Redbird OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)**

- Fourteen miles of hiking trails were cleared and reopened.

### **Salamonie Lake**

- Through "Power the Camp," 25 equestrian campsites now have electrical hook up in Loop B.
- The Lost Bridge West boat launch ramp has new concrete installed and a sidewalk to the courtesy dock.
- Old wallpaper was removed, and a fresh coat of paint was completed in the property office.
- Seven wetlands and ponds levees were improved to benefit wildlife.
- A concrete pad and accessible fire ring are being installed near the interpretive shelter.

### **Shades State Park**

- A paved and accessible sidewalk was installed for the Hickory Shelter and the modern restroom facility.
- A scenic viewer was installed at Prospect Point to allow those with color blindness to experience fall colors.
- Pollinator fields encompassing 11 acres were planted and will benefit bees and butterflies.

### **Shakamak State Park**

- Cabins B, C and D were re-sided and air conditioning units were added.
- Six new full hookup campsites were installed.
- Air conditioning is now available in the Log Cabin day use rental building.

### **Spring Mill State Park**

- The renovated Spring Mill Inn is open for overnight stays and delicious meals in the Millstone Dining Room.
- The fully repaired Historic Gristmill is operational. Repairs included a new flume, wheel, gears and siding. Fresh cornmeal will again be ground and available during the summer recreation season.
- The upstairs in the Lakeview Activity Center has all-new interactive displays for guests to enjoy.

### **Starve Hollow SRA**

- A new boardwalk was added through the wetland forest between the campground and overflow parking.
- The fishing docks were resurfaced, and the floats were replaced.
- Many picnic tables were refinished by a volunteer.
- Several of the rent-a-camp cabins are being repainted.
- New mulch was added to several of the playgrounds.
- New lighting was installed in the forest education center.

### **Summit Lake State Park**

- The 2-Mile Kayak Trail Challenge is live and available for lake users to enjoy.
- Sixteen acres of invasive honeysuckle were removed from trails 4 and 6.
- Trail 6 will be rerouted this summer to allow additional shoreline fishing and picnicking.

### **Tippecanoe River State Park**

- Three pull-through sites were constructed in the electric campground.
- Savanna restoration work is complete along the south portion of the main road loop area.
- Map holders were installed at key intersections of the trail system.
- An event area was created to host special equestrian events.
- The playgrounds at Tepicon and the fire tower were improved, and new mulch was installed.

### **Turkey Run State Park**

- The new Trail 12 in the Rocky Hollow Nature Preserve will provide a bypass around the ladders on Trail 5 for those who may not want to climb them.
- A sensory garden was installed at the nature center.
- Exhibits were replaced in the Lieber Cabin near Sunset Point.
- The tennis court restroom was renovated, and new restroom fixtures were installed in Big Log Shelter's modern restroom.
- A scenic viewer was installed at Sunset Point to allow those with color blindness to experience fall colors.
- The Turkey Run Centennial Challenge begins in early summer.
- Newly remodeled accessible rooms were added at Turkey Run Inn.
- Newly remodeled guest rooms are available on the second floor/west wing of Turkey Run Inn.
- New patio furniture is available at the Turkey Run Inn pool.
- The Covered Bridge Retreat, open for rental this summer, has new window treatments, bedding, televisions, washer and dryer, and other furnishings.

### **Versailles State Park**

- A new accessible outdoor water fountain and bottle filling station were added outside the nature center.
- The new Waterfall Trail (Trail 5) is open and signed for this season.
- In a restoration of warm season grass areas at the Bradt Natural Area, more than 30 acres of forestry mowing removed invasive species and young second growth trees.
- Two acres of pollinator plants will benefit bees and butterflies below the Versailles State Park dam.
- Four campsites were upgraded from back-in to pull-through sites.



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