

Indiana Dunes

NATIONAL LAKESHORE • INDIANA



THESE VAST DUNES

Along the southern shore of Lake Michigan between Gary and Michigan City are several sections of clean, sandy beaches backed by huge sand dunes, many covered with trees and shrubs, others continually reshaped by the wind. The beach was used as part of a trail system by Indians, the original inhabitants of the region, and later, in the early 1800's, by pioneers. Gradually, this trail was abandoned in favor of an inland route which was more adaptable to horses and carriages and stagecoaches. The inland route eventually led to the development of U.S. 12.

Most of the national lakeshore falls between the shoreline and U.S. 12, and two sections—Tremont-Furnessville and Bailly Homestead areas—lie between U.S. 12 and U.S. 20. The parkland, totaling about 8,000 acres, will preserve some of the remaining dunes, bogs, and marshes, and provide recreational opportunities along the beaches and inland.

EARLY PROPOSALS

One of the first proposals to preserve the Indiana Dunes came in 1917 and called for a national park of 9,000 to 13,000 acres extending 20 to 25 miles along the shore of Lake Michigan. This proposal was suspended because of the costs of the war effort.

Except for small city parks, Indiana Dunes State Park is the only other public area in the region preserving dunes and shoreline. The State park was established in 1923 on land purchased mostly through private and public subscriptions. Today, some 2,200 acres of dunes and marshland along 3 miles of shoreline are protected within its boundaries—far too little parkland for a rapidly growing region. No land has been added since 1926.

After diligent efforts by interested citizens and organizations to promote the national lakeshore, legislation was enacted in 1966 authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to establish Indiana

Dunes National Lakeshore when sufficient land and waters were acquired to be effectively administered as a unit. On September 8, 1972, the national lakeshore was officially established, and at that time, outside the State park lands, comprised 5,000 acres of Federally owned land and approximately 1,000 acres of privately owned land still to be purchased.

A REMARKABLE SHORE

One of the principal uses of the national lakeshore will be for recreation. Swimming and sunning on the beach will be centered mainly in the West Beach Unit between Gary and the community of Ogden Dunes. Almost ideal recreational possibilities will be available along approximately 1 mile of shoreline and extend inland for about 1 mile.

Picnicking sites will be developed in the inland section near Tremont. The use of much of the rest of the national lakeshore will be limited to hiking, bicycling, and other day-use activities.

NATURAL VALUES

The purpose of the national lakeshore is to protect the remaining shoreline, dunes, marshes, and the ecology of plants and animals in an environment produced by the actions of glaciers, lakes, and wind.

Cowles Bog, near Indiana Dunes State Park, and Pinhook Bog, 6 miles south of Michigan City, are of particular interest for their variety of wetland plants and animals. They have remained in a nearly natural condition in a region of manmade changes, and were given national natural landmark status in 1966. The only development in these two areas will be limited nature trails and boardwalks to introduce visitors to this type of environment.

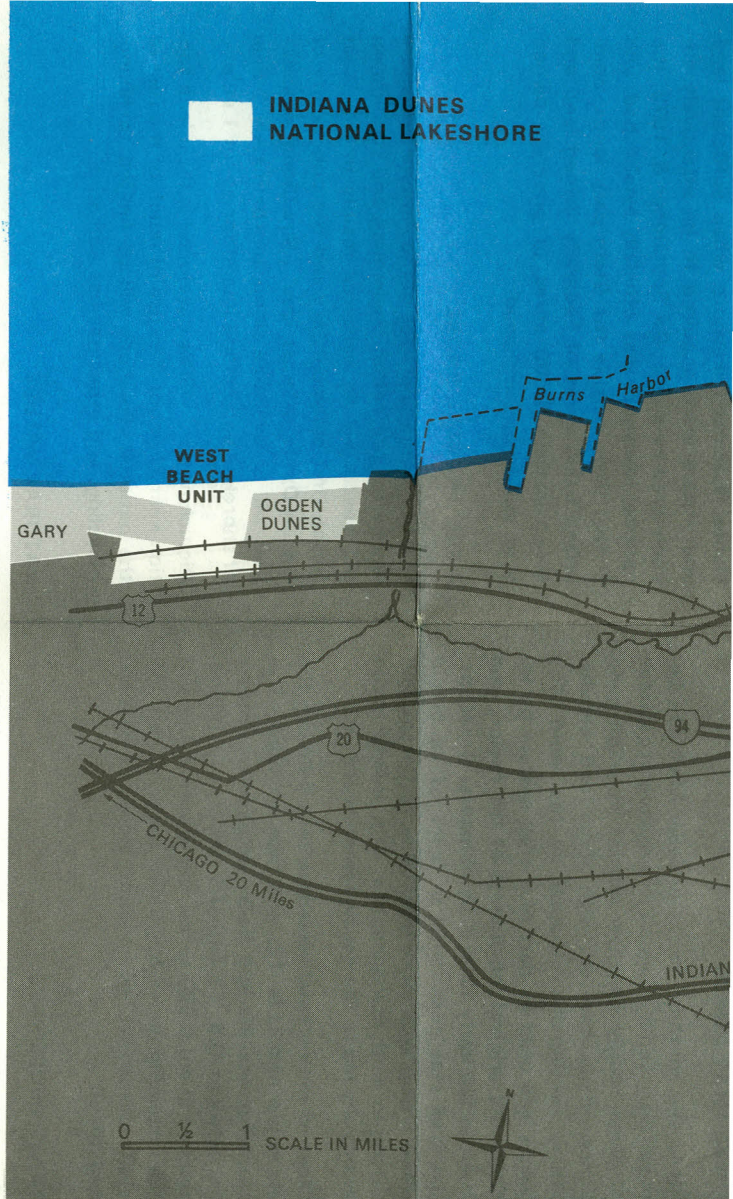
USE OF DUNE BUGGIES AND ALL OTHER OFF-THE-ROAD VEHICLES IS PROHIBITED. For your protection and the protection of the dunes, please observe the beach rules.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Visitors should respect the rights of private land-owners. Private property, whether land or structures, should be given the same courtesy and consideration due personal property.

The beaches at the national lakeshore are unprotected. Lifeguard service is not provided.

The lakeshore Administration and Information Building is at the junction of U.S. 12 and Kemil Road, east of the State park. Information is available daily in summer and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays during the rest of the year. Environmental education programs are conducted from the information center. Inquiries should be addressed to the Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Rt. 2, Box 139A, Chesterton, IN 46304.



LAKE MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN CITY

BEVERLY SHORES

STATE PARK

DUNE ACRES

LAKESHORE HEADQUARTERS

20

12

421

94

NORTH ROAD

CHESTERTON

49

PINHOOK BOG

NA TOLL ROAD

80

90

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

National Park Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR