

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Indiana Dunes National Park

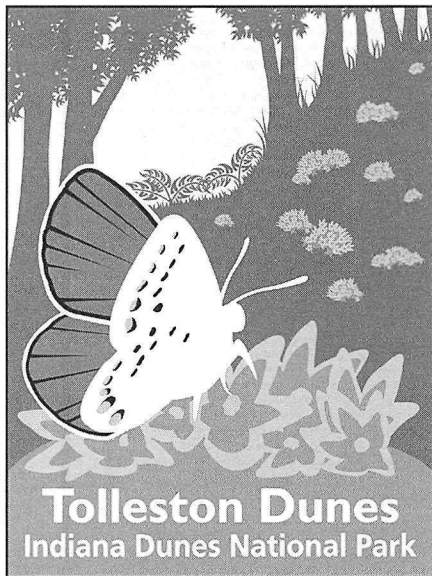


Trail Map

Experience your
America™

Tolleston Dunes Trail

The national park was established in 1966 to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public, certain portions of the Indiana Dunes and other areas of scenic, scientific, and historic interest and recreational value in the state of Indiana. About two million annual visitors enjoy the park's 15,000 acres of wetlands, prairies, sand dunes, oak savannas, forests, and historic sites. The park's beach hugs the southern shore of Lake Michigan from Gary, Indiana, to Michigan City, Indiana. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/indu.



*Hike over fifty miles
of trails at
Indiana Dunes
National Park*



You Can Help!

Visit: www.nps.gov/indu
or Call: (219) 221-7098

The Tolleston Dunes Trail follows 10,000-year-old sand dunes that were formed when Lake Michigan was 25 feet higher than in recent years. Tolleston is the second youngest of four distinct dune systems found within the national lakeshore. Together these dune ridges provide a glimpse into the changing shoreline of Lake Michigan.

Tolleston Dunes is a great example of the globally rare oak savannah habitat. Where eastern hardwood forests meet western tall grass prairies, there is a unique and endangered ecosystem known as black oak savanna. Oak savannas are sparsely treed grasslands where fire-resistant oaks stand among prairie plants.

Oak savannas, once covering roughly fifty million acres from Michigan to Nebraska, now cover only about 30,000 acres. In the Midwest, it is estimated that less than 0.02% of high-quality oak savanna habitat remains. Indiana Dunes National Park staff currently manage over a thousand acres of some of the last surviving and highest quality oak savannas in the world.

Historically, fires set by lightning or by Native Americans prevented the understory from growing up and shading out sun-loving prairie plants. More recently, fire was suppressed, and savannas became overgrown. Today, increased prescribed fire frequency and mechanical clearing are being used to open up the canopy and understory that will allow the diverse savanna plants and animals to thrive.

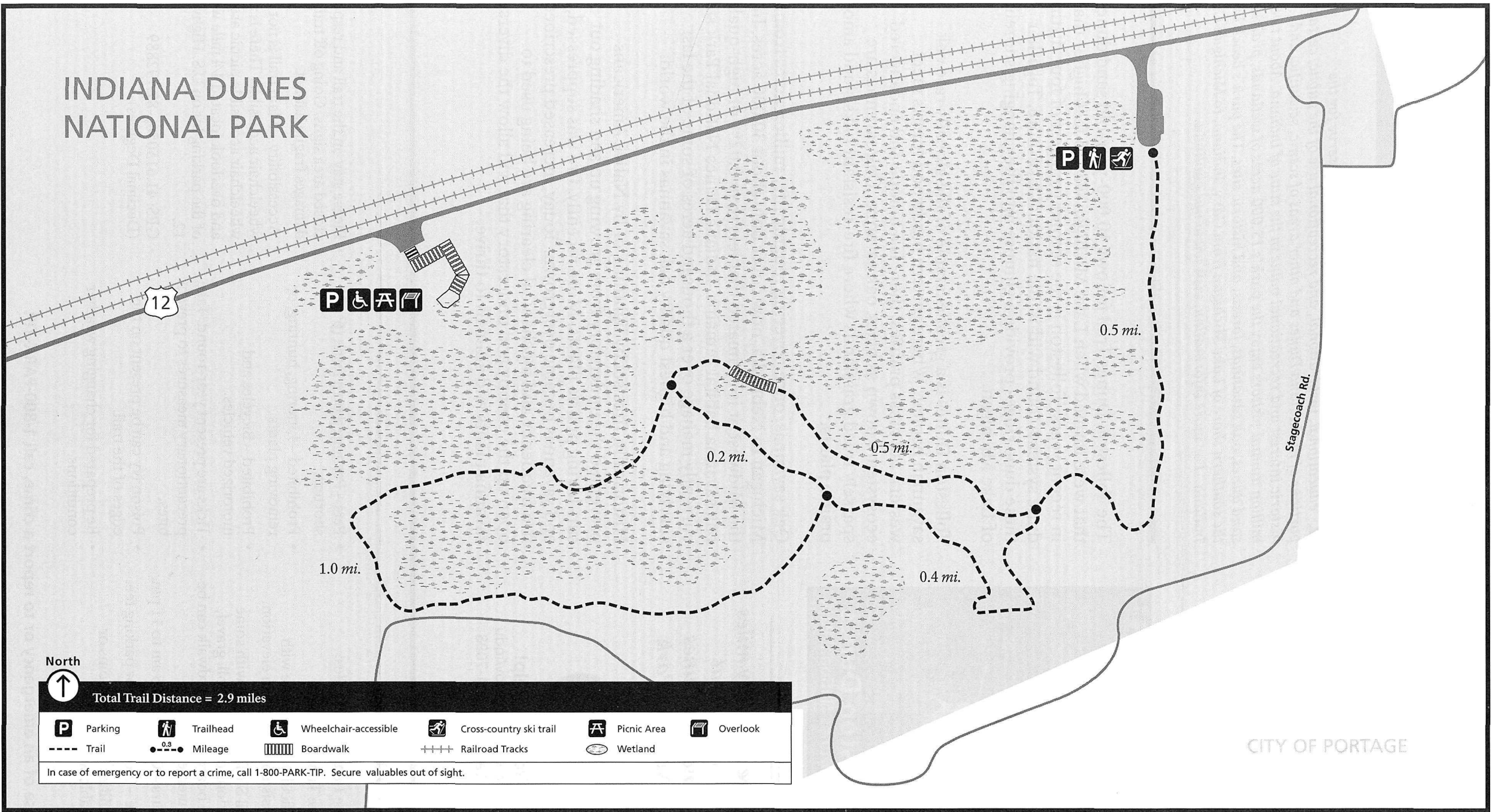
Tips for the Trail

- Hike Length – 2.9 miles.
- Hike Time – 2 hours.
- Difficulty – Moderate with consistent changes in elevation.
- Trail Surface – Sand with some sections of packed soil, gravel, and boardwalk. Boardwalk can be submerged.
- Hours – Open daily 6 am to 11 pm.
- Free – No entrance or parking fee.
- Facilities – No restrooms or potable water.
- Pets – Permitted on a leash (6' or shorter).
- Prohibited – Littering, hunting, or removing plants.
- Prohibited – Bicycles and motorized vehicles.
- Ticks are present year-round. Take precautionary measures to prevent bites.
- Poison ivy can be present on the edges of the trail.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions.
- Please stay on the trail and respect closed area signs. Going off trail damages fragile habitat.
- Accessibility – Main trail is not wheelchair accessible. There is a wheelchair accessible picnic area and overlook located 1/4 mile west of the parking lot on U.S. Highway 12.
- GPS: 41.615056, -87.192889 (Decimal Degrees).

In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK

Tolleston Dunes Trail



Total Trail Distance = 2.9 miles

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| P Parking | Trailhead | Wheelchair-accessible | Cross-country ski trail | Picnic Area | Overlook |
| --- Trail | ●---● Mileage | Boardwalk | Railroad Tracks | Wetland | |

In case of emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP. Secure valuables out of sight.

CITY OF PORTAGE