



2017 - Vol. 38 No. 1

FIND YOUR PARK

National Park Service Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Purpose

The national lakeshore was established to preserve certain portions of the Indiana dunes and other areas of scenic, scientific, and historic interest and recreational value in the state of Indiana for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public.

Contact Information

ADDRESS

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304
(GPS - N41.6336 W87.0544)

PHONE

219-395-1882 visitor information

E-MAIL

indu_communications@nps.gov

WEBSITE

www.nps.gov/indu



www.facebook.com/
IndianaDunesNL



https://www.flickr.com/photos/
indianadunes



http://twitter.com/IndianaDunesNPS



http://instagram.com/
indianadunesnps

Feathered Presentations

Who says it's the 'dead' of winter? The winter is certainly not 'dead' at Indiana Dunes. During February you could say it is just waking up. Lively feathers of color and joy are flocking in almost every day, which means the wee hours of the seasonal dawn are now upon us. So, do not hit snooze. Get up. Get out, and see what birds are flying outside beyond your curtains.

In February you never can tell what the latest performance will be. This season's ever-changing forecast may cause unusual birds to come in for a dune's showing. Some years it's the snowstorm of Snowy Owls arriving from the north. Some years it's Eastward Ho' as western species such as Spotted Towhee join the flock. Look for Snowy Owls in open areas along the lakefront such as West Beach or in open farm fields adjacent to the parks.

In March the "Longshore Flight" is the scheduled performance. Come down to the lakefront and catch the latest flights of Sandhill Cranes or Greater White-fronted Geese. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk is a great place to watch this annual flight under the canopy of the pavilion.



photo: Rafi Wilkinson, National Park Service

As April heats up, so goes the numbers and the species variety. It's time for the best hawk watches. Go Goshawks and Falcons! Marquette Park in Gary and West Beach in the national lakeshore are excellent hawk watching locations.

And May, well, we have neither the space nor time to give you May's entire program. May, to me, has been and forever will be 'Warbler Month'; bright jewels of colored feathers hung throughout the forests, hills, prairies, wetlands, and rivers of Duneland.

Between the national lakeshore and the state park, the following birding programs will be offered this winter and spring to help you enjoy this season's feathered presentations:

- Dunes Birding: Crash Course-- Saturday, Feb 18, 2-5 p.m. at the Indiana Dunes State Park. There is a \$10 fee, and registration information will be available on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pg/INDUNES/events/.

- Bird Sounds ID Workshop-- Saturday, April 15, 2-5 p.m. at the Indiana Dunes State Park. There is a \$10 fee and registration will be available on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pg/INDUNES/events/.

- To continue your education of bird world 2017, we offer you the opportunity to register and attend the third annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. Go to their website-- indianadunesbirdingfestival.com-- to register for the May 4th - 7th feathered festivities.

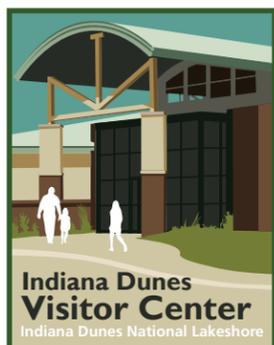
Birding in the Dunes is like a display of presentations, you never know what curtain the wind may open.



by: Christy Gerlach
Educational Specialist

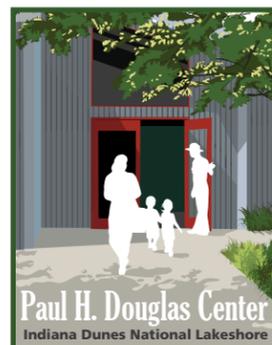
Visitor Centers - A Great Place to Start

Unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center

Located at 1215 North State Rd 49 in Porter, Indiana.
Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the summer and 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the winter.
GPS: N41.6336 W87.0544



Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Located on 100 N. Lake St. Miller, Indiana, 46403. Open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. (Winter: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Sat.)
GPS: N41.6061 W87.2678

Call 1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847) to report emergencies, and suspicious or criminal activity.

Don't Hibernate! Recreate!

Raise your hand if winter is your favorite time to enjoy the outdoors in the Dunes! You might be surprised at how many people are raising their hands right now. Winter is not a time to hibernate but a great time to recreate with an amazing amount of opportunities for winter activities within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Favorite Skiing Trails

- Glenwood Dunes Trail is an extensive trail system that features interconnected loops through gently rolling wooded dunes ranging from less than a mile to nearly 15 miles. The trail system can be accessed from either the Glenwood Dunes parking lot or the Calumet Dunes parking lot.
- Tolleston Dunes Trail is a 2.9 mile trail that winds amid varied habitats ranging from oak savanna to wetlands and is a good choice for advanced skiers. There are some difficult hills that can be tricky to navigate.
- Miller Woods Trail provides a one mile easy loop with a small hill to navigate. Skiers can then take the trail to the beach and the gently rolling oak savanna makes for a fun skiing adventure for more experienced skiers. The trail crosses the harbor belt, which is a former train track, and can be accessed for a longer, very flat east-west trail.

Join park staff at the Glenwood Dunes trailhead on weekends at our warming hut. A ranger will be stoking the fire and making hot chocolate for skiers when there is ample snow. Contact the park's visitor center for a snow conditions report: 219-395-1882.

Remember a few rules of the trail when skiing: hikers using snowshoes are asked to walk to the right of the cross-country ski tracks whenever possible to maintain the trail for skiers. We recommend that there be at least a four-inch snow base for skiing or snowshoeing.

While the park does not rent snowshoes or cross-country skis, visitors can borrow cross-country skis and snowshoes for free at the Paul H. Douglas Center and use them on the Miller Woods trails that surrounds the center. Contact the Douglas Center at 219-395-1821 for more information.

You can get out of the cold by stopping by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education where kids will enjoy a variety of hands-on activities while the adults look over the exhibits or take in a short video on the Indiana Dunes. The Douglas Center features a live animal room. Also, be sure to visit the Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center where you can watch the feathered guests around the bird feeders from inside the center. You can even help collect data at the Douglas Center for their Feeder Watch Study.

Join park staff on a guided winter program to enjoy the season with park staff. Whether you want to take a hike, learn to ski, or watch a film, you can find a varied list of our guided activities at www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/calendar.htm. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter to learn about the many fun things happening in the park all year.



Winter Safety

Stay safe, don't hibernate, and enjoy the dunes all year long!

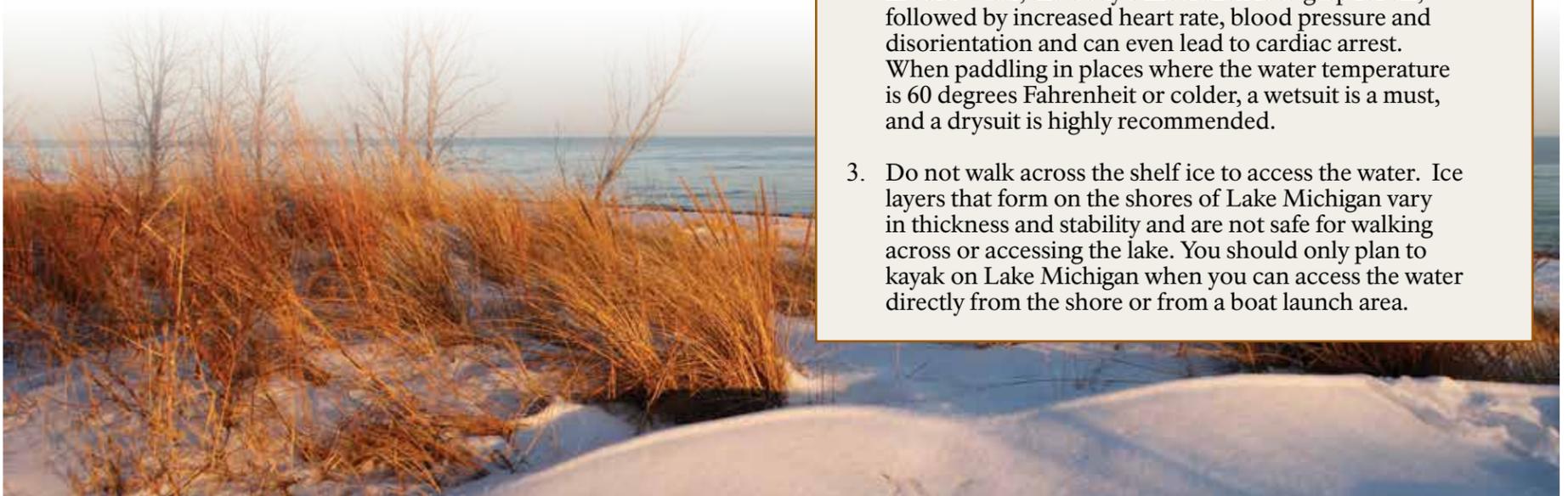
To stay warm while enjoying the dunes in winter, dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes, including headwear, and keep your feet and hands dry. Also, keep exposed skin to a minimum and keep an eye on the wind chill to help prevent frostbite. Waxy looking skin is a sure symptom and should be treated with a gentle rewarming of the skin and by seeking medical advice.



When freezing temperatures are sustained, Lake Michigan takes on the appearance of the Arctic with pack ice stretching to the horizon. But, unless you're a polar bear, be sure to enjoy this spectacular sight from the safety of the shore. While it may look solid, this ice is full of hidden thin spots and gaps (often further hidden by a layer of snow). Venturing out onto the ice itself is a sure way to risk death.

Winter Paddling Tips Bring Out your Canoe or Kayak

1. Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD). In approximately half of all kayaking fatalities, the victim was not wearing a PFD. Take the time to get a lifejacket that fits comfortably and wear it each and every time you are on the water. Keep it zipped/snapped closed the entire time on the water.
2. Dress for immersion with a wetsuit or drysuit. Cold water is extremely dangerous. It quickly robs the body of its strength, diminishes coordination, and impairs judgment. Immersion in water as warm as 50 – 60 degrees can initiate "Cold Water Shock". When a paddler capsizes and is suddenly immersed in cold water, the body's first reflex is to gasp for air, followed by increased heart rate, blood pressure and disorientation and can even lead to cardiac arrest. When paddling in places where the water temperature is 60 degrees Fahrenheit or colder, a wetsuit is a must, and a drysuit is highly recommended.
3. Do not walk across the shelf ice to access the water. Ice layers that form on the shores of Lake Michigan vary in thickness and stability and are not safe for walking across or accessing the lake. You should only plan to kayak on Lake Michigan when you can access the water directly from the shore or from a boat launch area.





February Programs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 All Day - Winterfest 9a - 12p Fruit Trees... 1p - 3p Playdate... 1p - 3p Bus Tour 1p - 3p Winterfest Movie 1p - 3p Showshoe Hike
All Day - Winterfest 9a - 11a Bus Tour 5	6	7	Nature Tots 10a - 12p 8	9	10	11 1p - 3p Snowshoe Hike
1p - 2p Movie 12 <i>Riding the Rails of History: The Story of the South Shore Line</i>	13	14	15	16	17 Music Heritage Series 7:30p - 9p	18 9a - 12p Stewardship 1p - 3p Playdate... 1p - 3p Snowshoe Hike 5:30 p Stargazing
1p - 2p Movie 19 <i>Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and the Black Hills</i>	20 President's Day 1p - 3p Movie	21	22	23	24 Science Research 7:00p	25 1p - 2p Octave Chanute
1p - 2p Movie 26 <i>Lake Michigan in a Dugout</i>	27	28	All Month - African-American Stories Visit the Douglas Center to learn about the variety of African-American stories told in your national parks. Participate in a scavenger hunt, watch a short movie, and learn about the many parks that share Civil Rights history. Great activity for a family, home school group, or classroom visit.			

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
Saturday 4 All Day	Winterfest	We will be hosting a variety of indoor and outdoor activities at the Visitor Center, Douglas Center and throughout the park.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center & Douglas Center
Saturday 4 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Stewardship Program	Join fruit tree enthusiasts and staff in learning about different ways of restoring neglected fruit trees.	Dunes Learning Center
Saturday 4 1:00 pm - 3:00pm	Playdate in the Nature Playzone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday 4 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Winterfest Bus Tour	Two-hour bus tour of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 4 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Winterfest Movie	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of the documentary <i>North America: Winter at Yellowstone</i> .	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 4 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Winterfest Snowshoe Hike	Try out snowshoeing. A limited number of snowshoes available. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Sunday 5 All Day	Winterfest	We will be hosting a variety of indoor and outdoor activities at the Visitor Center, Douglas Center and throughout the park.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center & Douglas Center
Sunday 5 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Winterfest Bus Tour	Two-hour bus tour of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Wednesday 8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children as we read fun nature books and learn about nature. Free registration at 219-395-1821.	Douglas Center
Saturday 11 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Snowshoe Hike	Try out snowshoeing. A limited number of snowshoes available. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Sunday 12 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	DunesTube--Movie Series	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of the <i>Riding the Rails of History: The Story of the South Shore Line</i> .	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Friday 17 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series	Come out for music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving local folk music.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 18 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Stewardship Program	Join us for a morning of stewardship as we prepare for the 39th annual Maple Sugar Time at Chellberg Farm.	Bailly/Chellberg Parking Lot
Saturday 18 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Playdate in the Nature Playzone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday 18 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Snowshoe Hike	Try out snowshoeing. A limited number of snowshoes available. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 18 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Stargazing	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy seasonal changes in the night sky. Telescopes will be provided.	Kemil Parking Lot
Sunday 19 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	DunesTube--Movie Series	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of <i>Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and the Black Hills</i> documentary.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Monday 20 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	DunesTube--Movie Series	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of <i>Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and the Black Hills</i> documentary.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Friday, 24 7:00 pm	Science Research at INDU	Meet a scientist working on current research in the park and learn how science informs park decision making.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 25 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	The Life of Octave Chanute	Author Simine Short discusses the life of aviator Octave Chanute who experimented with gliders in the dunes of Lake Michigan.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Sunday 26 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	DunesTube--Movie Series	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of <i>Lake Michigan in a Dugout</i> .	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center





March Programs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 11a - 3p DLC Open House... 1p - 3p Playdate... 10a - 4p Maple Sugar Time
10a - 4p Maple Sugar Time	5	6	7	8	9	10 Daylight Savings Starts 10a - 4p Maple Sugar Time
10a - 4p Maple Sugar Time	12	13	14	15	16 Music Heritage Series 7:30p - 9p	17 9a - 12p Stewardship 9:30a-3:30p Gardening... 1p - 3p Playdate... 7p Stargazing
1p - 3p Wildflower Hike	19	20	21	22	23	24 9a - 11a Bus Tour 12p - 3p Backpacking... 1p - 3p Bus Tour 10a Native Plant Talk
Native Plant Talk 1p - 2p	26	27	28	29	30	31

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
Saturday 4 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Dunes Learning Center Open House	Learn about the fun summer camps offered at Dunes Learning Center with camp-inspired activities. Register at www.duneslearningcenter.org .	Dunes Learning Center
Saturday 4 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Playdate in the Nature Play Zone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday & Sunday 4, 5, 11 & 12 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Maple Sugar Time	Enjoy a sweet taste of spring at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's 39th annual Maple Sugar Time program. Admission is free for all activities.	Chellberg Farm
Friday 17 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series	Join the Save the Tunes Council, a group of local musicians, as they share folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 18 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Stewardship Program--Tree Grafting	Join staff for fruit tree pruning and grafting workshops. Pre-register at www.duneslearningcenter.org . There is a \$10 fee.	Dunes Learning Center
Saturday 18 9:30 am - 3:30 pm	Gardening with Native Plants & Pollinators	Learn gardening tips using native plants and pollinators for use in your yard or your classroom. Register at www.duneslearningcenter.org . \$35 fee.	Douglas Center
Saturday 18 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Playdate in the Nature Play Zone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday 18 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Stargazing	Enjoy the beauty of the night sky through telescopes from the darkest site in the park.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
Sunday 19 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Spring Wildflower Hike	Join a ranger at the Heron Rookery for a hike to see what spring woodland flowers are blooming.	Heron Rookery Parking Lot
Saturday 25 9:00 am - 11:00 am & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Dunes Bus Tour	Enjoy a two-hour tour of the park in one of our 15-passenger shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 25 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Backpacking for Fitness	Learn how to get stronger, burn calories, have a healthier heart, and improve your posture while exploring the park trails.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 25 10:00 am	Native Plant Talk	Join local plant expert Steve Sass for an in-depth presentation on the importance of native plants to celebrate the upcoming Native Plant Sale.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Sunday 26 1:00pm - 2:00pm	Native Plant Talk	Join local plant expert Nathanael Pilla for an in-depth presentation on the importance of native plants to celebrate the upcoming Native Plant Sale.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

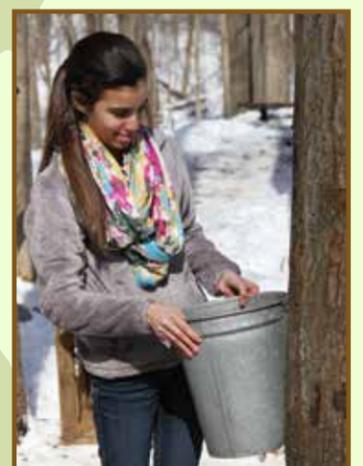
Maple Sugar Time Festival

Enjoy an early taste of spring at the annual Maple Sugar Time Festival. The Chellberg Farm will be bustling with maple sugaring activities from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the weekends of March 4 & 5 and March 11 & 12, 2017.

One-hour tours start every 20 minutes each day. Join one to learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Then, stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellberg family did it back in the 1930s. Try your hand at drilling a tap hole, lugging heavy sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke, or just enjoying a free taste of pure maple syrup! Warm up in the farm house and collect recipes featuring maple syrup. Pure maple syrup and related products will be for sale on site. In addition to the free tours, a pancake breakfast will be available for purchase from the Chesterton Lions Club.



New at this year's festival will be a multi-geocaching event. The park will launch the new activity on March 2, and geocachers will be able to download the coordinates via their app or create a new account on geocaching.com. Check out our Facebook page closer to the event or ask a ranger at the visitor center to get started.





April Programs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Dunewood Campground 1 Opening Day
1p - 2p Movie <i>Jens Jensen</i> <i>The Living Green</i> 2	3	4	5	6	7	9a - 12p Gardening at Chellberg Farm 8 Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale All Day
1p - 3p Orienteering 9	10	11	12 Nature Tots 10a - 12p	13	14	National Park Week 15 9a - 12p Stewardship... 1p - 3p Wildflower Hike 7:30p Stargazing
1p - 3p West Beach Hike 16	17	18	19	20	21 Music Heritage Series 7:30p - 9p	Earth Day 9a - 12p Gardening... 22
National Park Week						
1p - 3p Pinhook Bog Upland Trail Hike 23	24	25	26	27	28	10a - 3p Green Gary... 29 1p - 3p Orienteering
1p - 3p Mount Baldy Hike 30						

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
Sunday 2 1:00 pm - 2:00pm	DunesTube--Movie Series	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theatre for a screening of <i>Jens Jensen: The Living Green</i> .	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 8 All Day	Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale	Purchase native species to improve your yard and garden at this annual plant sale sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 8 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Gardening at Chellberg Farm	Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm garden get off to a great start.	Chellberg Farm
Sunday 9 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Orientation to Orienteering	Find out how to use a map and compass and receive a challenge to find your way through the dunes. Tools provided.	Central Avenue Beach
Wednesday 12 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children as we read fun nature books and learn about nature. Free registration at 219-395-1821.	Douglas Center
Saturday 15 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Stewardship Program-- Invasive Plants	Help to combat invasive plants found in the park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment provided.	Heron Rookery
Saturday 15 1:00 pm - 3:00pm	Wildflower Hike	Explore the Little Calumet River flood plain and its great diversity of spring wildflowers, birds, and frogs.	Heron Rookery
Saturday 15 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Stargazing	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy seasonal changes in the night sky. Telescopes will be provided.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
Sunday 16 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	West Beach Hike	Join a ranger for a hike along the dune succession trail for one of the most picturesque views of Lake Michigan.	West Beach
Friday 21 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series	Come out for music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving local folk music.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 22 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Gardening at Chellberg Farm	Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm garden get off to a great start.	Chellberg Farm
Sunday 23 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog Upland Trail Hike	Enjoy views of Pinhook Bog as you hike this lesser known trail with a ranger, traversing ravines and stands of mature forests.	Pinhook Bog
Saturday 29 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Green Gary--Earth Day Celebration	Celebrate Earth Day at this family-oriented event. Hikes, exhibits and interactive displays for everyone. Live bird presentations.	Douglas Center
Sunday 30 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mount Baldy Hike	Reserve your space for this ranger lead hike to the top of the beautiful and famous Mount Baldy. Register at 219-395-1882.	Mount Baldy

Spend the day with a ranger at Heron Rookery



Join a ranger on April 15 at 9:00 am and spend the morning removing invasive plants that threaten our native wildflowers at Heron Rookery. After a morning of work, enjoy a leisurely ranger-led hike from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm and enjoy the beautiful display of spring wildflowers along the Heron Rookery Trail. Work gloves and all other equipment will be provided.

Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale

Beautify your yard and garden with native plants such as Spice Bush, Hepatica, Trillium, and Cardinal Flower at the annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 8 from 8am - 1pm at the Visitor Center. Pre-order forms will be available at the park's visitor centers in March. Visitors can purchase plants the day of the sale. Sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, the proceeds benefit programs at both the state and national parks.



friendsofindianadunes.org



May Programs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	Birding Festival 4	Birding Festival 5	Birding Festival 6 9a - 12p Gardening... 1p - 3p Playdate... 1p - 3p Wildflower Hike
Birding Festival 7	8	9	Nature Tots 10 10a - 12p	11	Logs to Lustrons Tour 12	Logs to Lustrons Tour 13 2p Sacred Sands Performance
Logs to Lustrons Tour 14 1p - 3p Mother's Day Wildflower Hike	15	16	17	18	Music Heritage Series 19 7:30p - 9p	9a - 12p Stewardship... 20 11a Jr Wildland Firefighter 1p - 3p Playdate... 2p Sacred Sands... 8:30p Stargazing
9a - 11a Bus Tour 21 1p - 3p Bus Tour	22	23	24	25	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike 26 7:00p - 8:30p	12p - 3p Pinhook Bog 27 Open House 12p - 3p Backpacking... 8:30p - 9:30p Campground Program
28	29	30	31			

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
Thursday 4, Friday 5, Saturday 6, Sunday 7 All Day	Birding Festival	The festival showcases the abundance of migratory birds in the Indiana Dunes and offers countless walks, hikes, talks, and programs.	Call 219 395-1882 or www.indunesbirdingfestival.com
Saturday 6 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Playdate in the Nature Play Zone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday 6 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Gardening at Chellberg Farm	Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm garden get off to a great start.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday 6 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildflower Hike	Explore the 10,000 year old glacial moraine and the great diversity of spring wildflowers.	Bailly/Chellberg Parking Lot
Wednesday 10 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children and join a ranger as we read fun nature books and learn about nature during this two-hour program.	Douglas Center
Friday 12, Saturday 13, Sunday 14	Logs to Lustrons Tour	Tour 150 years of architectural design while exploring several historic buildings not currently open to the public. Reservations are required for this special tour and are made online with Indiana Landmarks.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center Call 219 395-1882
Saturday 13 2:00 pm	Sacred Sands Performance	Sacred Sands is a play for voices, written by David Hoppe and directed by Columbia College's John Green, inspired by J.Ronald Engel's book about the struggle to preserve the Indiana Dunes.	Douglas Center
Sunday 14 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mother's Day Wildflower Hike	Explore what spring woodland flowers are blooming. The Rookery is perhaps the best location in the region to see spring wildflowers.	Heron Rookery
Friday 19 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series	Join the Save the Tunes Council, a group of local musicians, as they share folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 20 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Stewardship Program-- Planting an Heirloom Garden	Lend a hand in getting the Chellberg Farm garden off to a good start. We will be doing everything from pulling weeds to planting seeds.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday 20 11:00 am	Junior Wildland Firefighter	Meet the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment.	West Beach
Saturday 20 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Playdate in the Nature Play Zone	Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Douglas Center
Saturday 20 2:00 pm	Sacred Sands Performance	Sacred Sands is a play for voices, written by David Hoppe and directed by Columbia College's John Green, inspired by J.Ronald Engel's book about the struggle to preserve the Indiana Dunes.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Saturday 20 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm	Stargazing	Enjoy the beauty of the night sky through telescopes from the darkest site in the park.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
Sunday 21 9:00 am - 11:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Dunes Bus Tour	Enjoy a two-hour tour of the park in one of our 15-passenger shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Friday 26 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike	Watching the sunset over Lake Michigan from the top of Mount Baldy is fantastic. You must pre-register for this tour by calling at 219-395-1882.	Mount Baldy
Friday 26 12:00 pm - 3:00pm	Pinhook Bog Open House	Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants and orchids.	Pinhook Bog
Friday 26 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm & 1:00 - 4:00 pm	Bailly Cemetery Hike & Bailly/Chellberg Open House	Enjoy a fun hike to the Bailly Cemetery at 12:00 pm and then explore the interiors of both historic homes from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.	Bailly/Chellberg Parking Lot
Saturday 27 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Backpacking for Fitness	Learn how to get stronger, burn calories, have a healthier heart, and improve your posture while hiking park trails.	Douglas Center
Saturday 27 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Campground Program	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about park resources you can discover on the Dunes Scavenger Hunt.	Dunewood Campground



Volunteer - Adopt a Trail Corps

We are looking for volunteers who love to hike and would like to adopt one of our trails! The Adopt-a-Trail Corps volunteers act as the eyes and ears for the park's trails. As trail stewards, members report trail conditions like flooding or erosion, damaged or missing signs and markers, and downed trees. A great benefit is seeing the wonder of nature in all of its seasons.

Working in partnership with the Indiana Coastal Invasive Plant Network, we are working to keep invasive plant species from degrading the park's biodiversity. Early detection and rapid removal is one of the most effective ways to accomplish this goal. Volunteers for the Corps are trained to look for the invaders in their habitats, and they learn how to officially report the invasive species with their locations. Early detection is critical to keeping new invaders from taking over a habitat.

Corps volunteers are asked to hike an adopted trail at least once a month throughout the year, keeping the trail clean and taking photos to share on social media. If you are interested in joining the Adopt-a-Trail Volunteer Corps, contact Rafi Wilkinson at 219-395-1882 or email him at rafi_wilkinson@nps.gov.



Education



The dunes are a natural laboratory for learning as teachers from around the region can attest. Today, the opportunities for educating students with dunes resources have grown tremendously and are offered year round. Some suggestions for teachers to take advantage of this winter and spring include:

Traveling trunks are excellent tools that teachers can check out from the park's Douglas Center for Environmental Education and use in their classroom. We have education trunks just waiting to connect with your audience whether you want to learn about

the Native Americans of this region or the exotic zebra mussel that now inhabits the lake. To check out a travelling trunk, contact Julie Larsen at 219-395-1821.

Throughout the year, the park and the Dunes Learning Center partner to provide professional development workshops for educators. The next workshop, Gardening with Native Plants and Pollinators, is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Douglas Center. The workshop will focus on gardening at your school or your home and involving students in the process. There will be a \$35 fee which includes lunch and materials. Register at www.duneslearningcenter.org/adults/.

Earth Day

April is a busy month at the park with birds returning, flowers blooming, and staff celebrating National Park Week and Earth Day. Join National Park Service staff and many partners at the Paul H. Douglas Center on Saturday, April 29 for this year's Earth Day-Green Gary Celebration. From 10 am - 3 pm, the festivities will range from orienteering hikes, kayak safety demonstrations, native beekeeping presentations, and lots of hands on activities for children of all ages. Bring the family out for a free, fun day of environmental awareness and celebrate Earth Day.



Top Visitor Questions

Are there two Indiana Dunes Parks?

Yes, in addition to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, there is Indiana Dunes State Park. The state park entrance is located north of the Visitor Center, and features towering dunes, miles of beautiful beach and a modern campground. Be sure to make a visit.

Where may I climb a dune?

Most of the park trails cross over forested dunes. You must stay on a designated trail when you walk on any dune to protect this fragile resource.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile Dune Succession Trail. The new Miller Woods Trail extension traverses the dunes to Marquette Park. Please stay on designated trails to protect sensitive dune species.

Do you close the beach when high waves are present or E. coli levels are high?

No. The national lakeshore does not close its beach due to water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas, and you must determine what is safe for you. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach and Indiana Dunes State Park. Lifeguards are not present at other locations of the beach.

Call 219-926-7561 followed by prompt #2 for information regarding E. coli levels.

May I take my pet with me for a hike?

Yes. The national lakeshore has over 50 miles of hiking trails. Pets restrained by a leash (6' or less) are permitted on most park trails. Pets are prohibited on the Great Marsh Trail, Glenwood Dune Trail, and at the Nature Play Zone. Pets are only permitted on the beach east of the Kemil beach access point.

The Glenwood Dunes Trail (intersection of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14.

Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open the last Friday in April through the third Sunday in October and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores (see map on back). Its 66 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$18.00 per night. **Credit or debit card ONLY. No cash or checks accepted.**

The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Indiana Dunes State Park also has a large campground with electricity. They require reservations most of the year. For more

information, go to www.indianastateparks.reserveamerica.com

Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! There are several Junior Ranger books to guide you on adventures through various park locations. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up Junior Ranger materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Douglas Center, or download them at www.nps.gov/indu/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm, or ask a ranger.

Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations within the national and state parks. **See map on back.**

Can I take public transportation to the park?

Yes. The South Shore train has four stops within and near park access sites and runs between Chicago and South Bend. For a schedule, visit www.mysouthshoreline.com.



Stay on the trails to protect fragile areas and plants.

1 Paul H. Douglas Center For Environmental Education

The ponds, open dunes, and oak savanna habitats in Miller Woods provide abundant wildlife and dramatic scenery. The extension trail to Lake Michigan features beautiful views of small ponds nestled among wooded dunes, and teams with wildflowers in the spring and summer. Families can enjoy the Nature Play Zone. The center has interactive exhibits to explore.

2 West Beach

West Beach is a great destination, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Enjoy a meal at the picnic shelter, walk a marked trail traversing the dunes and forest, learn how plant and animal communities are replacing one another through time, or watch migrating waterfowl at Long Lake in autumn and spring. Light food service may be available during the summer.

3 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk has an accessible fishing pier, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that contains seasonal food service.

4 Cowles Bog Trail

The national lakeshore's most rugged hike takes you on a five-mile journey through wetlands and over both wooded and moving dunes to an isolated beach.

5 Bailly/Cheilberg

Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era farmstead. Enjoy Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Mnoké Prairie, Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

6 Glenwood Dunes Trail

Depending on the season, hike, ski, or horse-back ride the four-mile trail through wooded dunes and wetlands. Bring your own skis or horse.

7 Lake View

This covered picnic area overlooking Lake Michigan is a great place to relax! Beautiful sunset views make this one of the more popular parking spots. Limited parking spaces are open until 11 p.m.

8 Dunewood Campground

Dunewood is one mile south of Lake Michigan and features 66 wooded campsites. Enjoy camping with the convenience of access to restrooms and showers. Fees are charged, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Credit card or debit card only, no cash or checks accepted. Campground season dates are April 1- October 31.

9 Mount Baldy

Open for ranger-led hikes
Hike the trail with a ranger to the top of the national lakeshore's largest moving dune. Mount Baldy, at 126 feet tall, provides stunning views of Lake Michigan and its shoreline. Do your part to protect the park. Stay on designated trails and avoid walking on plants. Register for a tour at 219-395-1882. Trail is open daily.

10 Pinhook Bog and Upland Trail

A mat of sphagnum moss keeps everything from trees to insect-eating plants floating above an ancient, and now-hidden, lake. This extremely rare and fragile habitat can only be entered during ranger-led tours. Check our program list for open house dates. The Upland Trail is open daily.

Water Safety

Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rough waters occur frequently during periods of high wind and make it unsafe to enter the lake. During the winter, shelf ice forms along the lakeshore and is never safe to walk on. Check with local authorities about conditions and potential hazards. There are no lifeguards at the national lakeshore beach during the fall, winter, and spring.

