



Fall 2008 through Spring 2009
Vol. 29 No. 1

Mission of the National Park Service

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 Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is 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.

Contact Information

PHONE
219-926-7561 or
1-800-959-9174

ADDRESS
National Park Service
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd.
Porter, IN 46304

E-MAIL
indu_communications@nps.gov

WEBSITE
www.nps.gov/indu

To report criminal or suspicious activity call:
1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)

In This Issue

- page 2 Protect Yourself
- page 3 Public Programs
- page 4&5 BioBlitz
- page 6 Educational Programs
- page 7 Partnerships
- page 8 Park Map



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The National Park Service's Newest Partnership Takes Shape



After \$10 million and 10 months of construction, the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will open its doors, trails and parking lot for public use beginning Oct. 16. This new addition to the national lakeshore will provide access to an area of the park not previously available to the public. The land, buildings, and all facilities at this site are owned by the National Park Service but operated in partnership with the city of Portage.

Located on the west side of the Burns Waterway, the new facility will offer parking for 125 cars, an accessible fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion.

The pavilion will include restrooms, a small food service area, and a glass-walled meeting and classroom. Not only is the building a beautiful addition to the landscape but will showcase environmentally responsible design. The pavilion is a Gold LEED certified building. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council. The standards evaluate environmental performance from a "whole building" perspective over a building's life cycle, providing a definitive standard for what

constitutes a "green building". By achieving a score of 71-80% of the available credits, it achieved the Gold standard.

The riverwalk will have stair access from the south parking area and will have trail access from the north end of the site. All facilities in the development meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accessible trails will connect the south parking lots with the northern facilities with a paved trail through the restored lagoons and will provide a route to the rehabilitated 900 foot breakwater, fishing pier and riverwalk.

Getting to the new development may seem a challenge until visitors become familiar with the route. The site is presently closed to the public during its construction phase. When opened, the site is accessed by SR 249 and the bridge over US 12 to U.S. Steel and PreCoat Metals in Portage, Indiana. At the stop sign at the north end of the bridge, visitors will turn left over Burns Waterway and then right at the sign for Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.

The public is invited to the grand opening ceremony and open house on Thursday, October 16 from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Join the National Park Service and the city of Portage as they celebrate this new addition to your national park.

By Management Assistant Eric Ehn



Pavilion (above) Breakwater (below)



5 Things to do at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk:

1. Attend the October 16 Grand Opening from 2 p.m.—6 p.m.
2. Visit the new pavilion.
3. Bike or hike one of the trails.
4. Enjoy fishing at the new pier.
5. Watch for migrating birds along the lakeshore.

Protect Yourself

WATER SAFETY

Take caution when swimming in Lake Michigan, the lake can be deadly. Check on lake conditions at the visitor center by calling (219)395-8914. Do not swim in high waves, as these can cause dangerous **rip currents**. These strong currents rushing out into Lake Michigan can carry even the strongest swimmer with them. If you get caught in a rip current, do not try to swim against it. Instead, swim parallel to the shoreline until you are out of the current.

Lake Michigan is generally clean and safe for swimming, but it can become contaminated with harmful bacteria. Do not enter the water when a health hazard warning is issued or posted. If you do, you risk intestinal illness; skin rash; or eye, ear, or respiratory infections.



A family enjoys one of the many beaches found at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

INSECT BITES AND STINGS

Avoid diseases carried by biting pests by checking yourself for ticks after being outdoors. Use insect repellent; and wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts, and tucked-in pants to help prevent both tick and mosquito bites. To help prevent mosquito bites, limit outside activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most prevalent.

Beware of yellow jackets and other stinging insects. Avoid loose-fitting clothing and bright, flowered prints. Do not wear sandals; avoid wearing perfume, lotion, and hairspray. Never swat at a flying insect. Look for insects before you drink from an open beverage can. When eating outdoors, keep food covered. Insect repellents DO NOT work against stinging insects. Seek immediate medical attention if you are stung and have symptoms of a systemic allergic reaction. Systemic reactions include hives, swelling of the eyes, lips, tongue, throat or sting area, intense general itching, difficulty breathing, irregular heartbeat, nausea, and loss of consciousness.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Always lock your vehicle when you leave it.
- Take valuables with you or keep them out of sight.
- Hike trails with a friend.

In case of emergency, contact the national lakeshore's help line at 1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)



Shelf ice at Lake Michigan

WINTER SAFETY

Do not sled. Due to hidden dangers (often partially covered by shifting sands), sledding, inner-tubing, tobogganing, and snowboarding are prohibited in the park.

Stay off the ice. When frozen, Lake Michigan looks much like the Arctic. Unlike the arctic landscape that it mimics, this ice is full of hidden thin spots and gaps (often further hidden by a layer of snow). Venturing out onto the ice is a sure way to risk death.

Stay warm. Dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes (including head wear) and keep your feet and hands dry. Minimize exposed skin. Keep an eye on the wind chill to help prevent frostbite. Gently re-warm any waxy-looking skin, and seek medical attention.

Dressing properly can also prevent hypothermia. Early signs of this potentially fatal cooling of the body include intense shivering, loss of coordination, and confusion. If you see symptoms, seek warmth and immediate medical care. Prime temperatures for hypothermia are actually above freezing between 30 – 50°F. Don't hike alone.

Enjoy Your Park

Park Hours

Unless posted otherwise, all public parking areas are open from sunrise to sunset.

Visitor Facilities

Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center

Open daily. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Dunewood Campground

Open April 1 through October 31.



Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education Open for scheduled education groups

Protect Your Park

Walk only on designated trails to prevent damage to park resources.

Hike the dunes only on marked trails to prevent dune erosion.

Dispose of your litter, and recycled items in marked containers.

Do not sled, this activity is prohibited and has hidden dangers.

Leave all natural and cultural items as you find them to preserve the present and past. Collecting such items as shells, fossils, rocks, and wildflowers is prohibited.

Respect all wildlife from a safe distance. Never feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals is dangerous and harms their health and alters their natural behaviors.

Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. For example, don't bring firewood to the park. Exotic insect pests that live in firewood can kill native trees. Burn all firewood; take no firewood home.

and special public events. Call 219-395-1857 for more information.

Dunes Learning Center

Open for scheduled overnight education groups. Call 219-395-9555 for more information.

Regulations

Pets are allowed on most trails, but they must be on a leash at all times. Pets are prohibited on the Ly-co-ki-we (horse/ski) trail, Porter Beach, Portage Lakefront, and West Beach. Pets are allowed year-round on the beaches from Kemil Beach east to Mount Baldy.

All **fishing** requires a valid state license and must meet state regulations. Contact the park or Indiana's Department of Natural Resources for more information. Smelt fishing also requires a Smelt Season Fire Permit. For information on obtaining a Smelt permit, call the Chief Ranger's office at 219-395-1644.



Horseback riding is permitted only on the Ly-co-ki-we Trail between March 16 and December 14.

Bicycles are permitted on the Calumet Bike Trail, the West Beach Trail between Ogden Dunes and West Beach, and the Marquette Trail between West Beach and Grand Boulevard. Bicycles are prohibited on all other park trails.

Cross-country skiing is permitted on designated trails.

All motorized **watercraft** are prohibited at all designated swimming beaches. Designated swimming beaches are identified by buoys from May 1 through September 30. Motorized watercraft are prohibited in Long Lake. Motorized personal watercrafts are prohibited in all national lakeshore waters.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the Dunewood Campground, West Beach, Porter Beach, and in all park buildings.

Glass containers are prohibited on all beaches.

Architecture Tour

October 11 & 12



House of Tomorrow

The Century of Progress homes were featured at the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair, demonstrating modern architectural design, experimental materials, and new technologies for the time. The homes were later moved to the lakeshore and are now on the National Register of Historic Places. They are being rehabilitated through an agreement with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Check the website www.nps.gov/indu in September for further information.



Ranger-Guided Programs

DATE & TIME	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Daily			
8:30 a.m.—4 p.m. (Ongoing)	<i>Child of the Northwest Wind</i>	Watch this 11-minute park orientation video to learn about the places to see and activities to do at the national lakeshore.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Sundays			
1 p.m.—4 p.m. Sept. & Oct. (except Sept. 21)	<i>Opening Doors to the Past</i>	Tour the historic buildings and learn of the local fur trade and farming in the 1800s-1900s.	Baily Homestead & Chellberg Farm
4 p.m.—5 p.m. Sept., Oct. & May (except Sept. 21)	<i>Farming at the Chellberg Farmstead</i>	Learn how animals were used and cared for in a turn-of-the-20th century farmstead.	Chellberg Farm Barn
1:30 p.m.—3 p.m. Oct. & Nov. (No hike on Nov. 23 or Oct 12)	<i>Fall Fanfare Walk</i>	Join a ranger and explore the fall forest.	Calumet Dune Interpretive Center (Hwy. 12 & Kemil Rd.)
1:30 p.m.—3 p.m. Jan. & Feb. (no hike on Jan. 3 & 17)	<i>Snowshoe Walk</i>	Join a ranger and explore the winter forest on snowshoes. A limited number of snowshoes are available. If not enough snow, a hike will be offered.	Calumet Dune Interpretive Center (Hwy. 12 & Kemil Rd.)
1:30 p.m.—3 p.m. Apr. & May (except May 17)	<i>Spring Blooms Hike</i>	Join a ranger and explore the forested dunes for wildflowers and other signs of spring. Meet the ranger and carpool to the best blooms of the week.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Fridays			
3rd Friday of each month	<i>Music Heritage Series</i>	Musicians play historic tunes related to local dune's culture.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Saturdays			
9 a.m.—11 a.m. Sept. & Oct. (except Sept. 20 & Oct. 11)	<i>Trekking the Bog</i>	Join a ranger for an adventure into Indiana's only "true" quaking bog. (reservations only, 219-395-8914)	Pinhook Bog, meet at the Dorothy Buell Visitor Center
4 p.m.—5 p.m. Sept., Oct., & May (except Sept. 20) 3—4 p.m., April	<i>Farming at the Chellberg Farmstead</i>	Learn how animals were used and cared for in a turn-of-the-20th century farmstead.	Chellberg Farm Barn
1:30 p.m.—3 p.m. Nov. + Dec. (no hike on Nov. 29 or Dec. 27)	<i>Healthy Hikes</i>	Join a ranger for some exercise and fun while learning about the park. Meet at the visitor center and carpool to the week's best trail.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
1 p.m.—4 p.m. Jan. & Feb. (except Jan. 4 & Feb. 1)	<i>Kids Fun at the Visitor Center</i>	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center activity room for an afternoon of fun kids activities and stories.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
1:30 p.m.—3 p.m. Apr. & May (except April 25, May 16)	<i>Spring Blooms Hike</i>	Join a ranger and explore the forested dunes for wildflowers and other signs of spring. Meet the ranger and carpool to the best blooms of the week.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Special Events			
Saturday, Sept. 20 & 21 11 a.m.—5 p.m.	<i>Duneland Harvest Festival - Lessons Learned</i>	Enjoy traditional harvest time festivities and learn how we can live more lightly on the Earth today.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday & Sunday Oct. 11 & 12	<i>Architecture Tour</i>	Tours of the historic homes will be offered by reservation only. Look for more information on the park website or call 219-395-8914.	To Be Announced
Saturday, Oct. 25 1 p.m.—3 p.m.	<i>Creepy, Crawly, and Cute Animals of the Dunes.</i>	Get ready for Halloween by learning about the interesting creatures of Indiana Dunes.	Paul H. Douglas Center
Sunday, Nov. 23 1 p.m.—2:30 p.m.	<i>What's Thanksgiving Without the Turkey</i>	Join a ranger for turkey related stories, activities, and games.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Sunday, Dec. 14 1 p.m.—4 p.m.	<i>Christmas Traditions in the Dunes</i>	Celebrate 1800s French "Joyeaux Noel" and Swedish "God Jul".	Baily Homestead & Chellberg Farm
Sunday, Feb. 1 1 p.m.—2:30 p.m.	<i>Groundhog Day</i>	A puppet groundhog will answer the "when is Spring coming" question while presenting many fun facts and myths about groundhogs.	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
Saturdays & Sundays, March (dates to be determined) 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	<i>Maple Sugar Time Festival</i>	Enjoy a taste of spring and learn about maple sugaring from American Indian methods to the Sugar Shack. Call 219-395-8914 to find out when the sap is flowing and the program will be presented.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday, Apr. 25 11 a.m.—3 p.m.	<i>Green Gary Day</i>	Join us for National Park Week family fun and activities. Also learn more about our upcoming BioBlitz event.	Paul H. Douglas Center



Have you ever wondered just how many birds, insects or flowers are flying, buzzing and blooming in your backyard on any given day? If you knew how to find them amidst the grass and leaves and dirt, the numbers would likely astound you. Now, can you imagine the numbers if you started counting all living organisms in an entire national park?

That is exactly what we plan to do here at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on May 15-16. For 24 hours, scientists, park managers, educators, volunteers, and visitors like you will start counting everything that lives—from fungi to fiddlehead

ferns; from white-tailed deer to star-nosed moles; from black-capped chickadees to rough-legged hawks; from karner blue butterflies to the . . .well, you get the picture.

We plan to get more than a picture, though. We are looking for a number-- a large number of different kinds of flora and fauna-- to help the National Park Service better care for its resources. By knowing how many and what kind of plants and animals live here, we can do a better job of protecting them. Part of protecting them is understanding how they live, where they live, and what they need to survive.



Of course, we can't do this alone. We're joining the National Geographic Society in this endeavor. They have organized annual BioBlitzes with two other National Parks --Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles and Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC.

bio

INDIANA DUNES NAT

May 15-16

PRE-bioBlitz

For the general public: October 18, January 17, and April 25

To get energized and knowledgeable about species, we will host a series of seminars and training sessions on October 17, and April 25. Scientists, resource managers, and educators will provide inspiration for the upcoming BioBlitz. Visit the lakeshore's website at www.nps.gov/indu to learn more.

For educators: November

We want students and teachers to play a vital role in the BioBlitz. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is partnering with the Dunes Learning Center for an overnight session in November. These overnight sessions will train students and teachers on the methods and techniques that will be used during the BioBlitz. To register for the session, call 219-395-9555. *Exact dates to be determined.*

For students: September-May

To get students prepared for this historic event, we offer BioBlitz 101 programs for high schools and colleges throughout the academic year. These programs teach the methods and techniques necessary to participate in the BioBlitz. To learn more about the program during the intense 24-hour study period, contact the national lakeshore's schedule at www.nps.gov/indu.



bioblitz

NATIONAL LAKESHORE

2009



The Indiana Dunes BioBlitz will be the third in a series of 10 annual National Geographic/National Park Service BioBlitzes leading up to the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016.

We need your help, too. At this year's BioBlitz in California, over 6,000 students, teachers, and volunteers came out to Santa Monica Mountains to help count plants and animals and be part of the fun-filled day. We plan to get even more participation at Indiana Dunes in 2009 and are calling on all neighbors, scout groups, schools, churches, clubs, after-school programs, and interested citizens to lend a hand, or a magnifying glass, and learn about the amazing organisms that live along the southern shores of Lake Michigan.

ACTIVITIES

7 & April 25

species diversity in our area, the national lakeshore seminars for the general public. On October 18, January and species experts will share their latest research at the bioblitz. Details will be announced; check the national lakeshore website for more as the seminars are scheduled.

participate in this 2009 BioBlitz. To begin, the national lakeshore Learning Center to host two teacher workshops in early April for educators in monitoring and research methods that will be held at the workshops, contact the Dunes Learning Center at 219-395-1857.

Additionally, National Park Service staff at Indiana Dunes will be hosting two - three hour programs will train students in the field with scientists and monitoring teams throughout the summer. For more information or to register for this program, contact the Dunes Learning Center at 219-395-1857.

Groups and individuals will be able to register for the free event closer to the date at the National Geographic website <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz>. If you send an e-mail to bioblitz@ngs.org, you will be notified when registration is open. You can also contact the national lakeshore at 219-395-8914 for more information.



Countdown to the bioblitz with us at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz>



Educational Programs

Learn with a Ranger



Who do we serve?

Any organized group such as schools (K-12), scouts, university classes, organizations, and preschools.

What do we provide?

Park rangers and docents conduct a variety of free, one- to three-hour field experiences throughout the park. Organized groups can choose from a variety of learning activities such as service learning projects, hiking the dunes on marked trails, learning about local history at the Chellberg Farm or exploring the wetlands in Miller Woods. Hands-on programs allow students to explore and learn in their national park. The programs assist teachers in meeting state education standards.

How do you reserve a ranger-led program?

Call 219-395-1857, or 1-800-959-9174.



When are programs offered?

Year-round. The park begins scheduling for the academic year in late August.

Where are programs offered?

At the cultural history sites of Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead, along the Mt. Baldy and West Beach shorelines, at the Calumet Dune Interpretive Center, and the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Gary, Indiana.

Where can you go for more information?

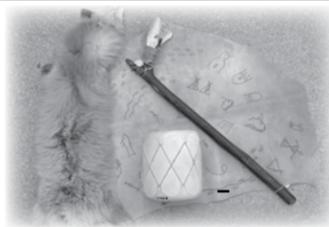
www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers or email the national lakeshore at INDU_interpretation@nps.gov. The lakeshore's website has interactive games for students, activity guides for teachers to download, and a complete list of programs.

Educator Workshops

Throughout the year the national lakeshore partners with other education institutions and the Dunes Learning Center to provide professional development opportunities within the park. Educators can earn graduate credit through local universities or continuing education units. This year, the following workshops will be held:

- November—BioBlitz 101 (Dates TBD)
- April 17-19—American Indians in this Region: Part II
- June 15-19—Field Techniques for Science Exploration

For more information on these two workshops or to register, contact the Dunes Learning Center at 219-395-9555.



Classroom Resources

The national lakeshore loans videos and traveling trunks to regional educators without charge; however, educators must pick them up and return them to the park. For a complete list of available resources, visit www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers or contact the park at 219-395-8914.

Become a Junior Ranger!

Children of all ages can participate in this fun, free, family-oriented program. Stop by the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (DBMVC) to pick up a *Discovery Guide* for the beach, historic sites, or the entire park; and learn why Indiana Dunes is a special place worth preserving. After completing the activities, stop by the DBMVC to receive your award. You can also download the activities on the park's website at www.nps.gov/indulforkids.



Become a ParKid

During the summer, local youth between the ages of 7 and 18 can participate in an in-depth experience at their national park. ParKids explore a variety of trails, beaches and habitats within the park and learn how the National Park Service is working to restore and protect these special resources. ParKids then become volunteers and assist in that important work during the summer. By the end of their experience, they create educational products to share with other kids in their home neighborhoods. To see what last year's ParKids created, visit www.nps.gov/indulforkids. For more information on being a ParKid next summer, contact Kip Walton at 219-395-1858.

Explore the Park on Your Own!

Many educators wish to bring their groups to the dunes on their own. National lakeshore activity guides are available at www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers. The Web Ranger Challenge, at www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers/onlinegames.htm, is an interactive game recommended to help students prepare for their visit to the national lakeshore.



Take the Water Safety Challenge! Students of all ages can learn about the importance of water safety from this interactive web quiz. The game is designed to teach some of the basic safety rules of Lake Michigan swimming, rip currents, and beach-going. Check out the web site at www.nps.gov/indu/photosmultimedia/watersafety_challenge.htm.



NEEDED

VOLUNTEER HELP

Many individuals with a passion for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore donate thousands of hours each year as volunteers. Lots of volunteer opportunities are available at the national lakeshore. Whether you want to help indoors or out, we probably have something that you will find both interesting and rewarding. Volunteer activities include greeting visitors at the information desk, leading tours for school groups, restoring natural habitats, helping with festivals, and more. If you can give just a few hours on a regular basis, you can make a difference. For more information on the volunteer program, please contact the national lakeshore's Volunteer Coordinator Lynda Lancaster at 219-395-1682 or Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov.



Volunteer Angel Gochee-Goins explains the many uses of various kinds of sugars in the Chellberg Farmhouse.

Information Desk Assistant

Do you have a friendly smile, enjoy talking to people, or just love helping visitors from all over the world? If so, we have a place for you at the information desk at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center. This position requires a minimum commitment of four hours per week. If you are interested, please contact Ryan Koepke at 219-395-8914.

Ski Patrol

The Resource and Visitor Protection Division is currently in need of volunteers for the Nordic Ski Patrol. Volunteers must be members of the National Ski Patrol to participate. If you would like to find out more about this excellent opportunity to serve the public and have fun at the same time, please contact ranger Steve Chorba at 219-395-1009

Park Partners

Shirley Heinze Land Trust



Shirley Heinze Land Trust's mission is to preserve environmentally significant natural areas in Northwest Indiana; to educate the public concerning the environmental and cultural uniqueness of the area; and to advance the goals of clean air and water.

Founded in 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has protected more than 1,000 acres of natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed. Included among these properties are five dedicated state nature preserves and examples of some of Indiana's rarest natural communities.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has worked closely with the national lakeshore for 27 years. It has transferred some 20 acres of property to the park, and it is processing a donation of another 17 acres. The two cooperate on stewardship issues, including prescribed burns and projects such as the Great Marsh restoration. The Heinze Trust has conducted many hikes and contributed to various other educational programs at the national lakeshore. It is funding the preparation of a revised edition of special flora of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust relies entirely on donations and grants to fulfill its mission. New supporters and volunteers are always welcome. For more information, contact:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust
444 Barker Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-4725
www.heinzetrust.org



Save the Dunes Conservation Fund



The Mission of the Save the Dunes Conservation Fund (SDCF) is to preserve, protect and restore the Indiana Dunes and all natural resources in Northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan Watershed for an enhanced quality of life.

Our current projects include Leave No Child Inside, Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team, Salt Creek Watershed Plan Implementation, and Demonstrating Low Impact Development. Our Land and Stewardship Program is ongoing. We partner with the National Park Service and other land managers through many of our projects including the Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network (NIIPN.)

All projects fit within our Strategic Plan under the focus areas of:

- Natural Resource Conservation and Restoration
- Advocating for Clean Air and Water
- Sustainable Communities

Dates and times for workshops, native plantings, invasive plant control workdays, along with other events and volunteer opportunities are posted on the events calendar located on our website. For more information visit our website: www.savedunes.org/ or call 219.879.3564

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
444 Barker Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-3564 phone
219-872-4875 fax

Other Partners

Chesterton Art Center
Field Station Cooperative
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana
Indiana Department of Natural Resources-
Nature Preserves and Coastal Program
Dunes Learning Center
Lake County Solid Waste Management District
Porter County Convention, Recreation, and Visitor
Commission
Purdue University Field Station
Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
U.S.G.S. Lake Michigan Ecological Research Station

Indiana Dunes State Park

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Our mission is to manage and interpret Indiana Dunes State Park's wildlife and natural and cultural resources, provide for compatible recreational opportunities, and sustain the integrity of these resources for future generations.

Established in 1925, Indiana Dunes State Park is one of 24 Indiana state parks administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Division of State Parks and Reservoirs. The state park contains some of the most diverse flora and fauna of the Midwest. It is also renowned throughout the Midwest for its birding.

The state park offers:

- a new park entrance,
- a year-round campground,
- swimming beach with lifeguards,
- nature center,
- more than 16 miles of hiking/skiing trails, and
- picnic shelters and areas.

During the summer, a beach pavilion provides:

- a shelter,
- snack bar,
- gift shop, and
- restrooms with outside showers.

The nature center has a library, bird observation room, children's activity corner, information desk, and exhibits about natural and cultural history. Private, public, and school programs are held year-round. Camping reservations can be made by calling 1-866-622-6746. There is a park entrance fee. For more information, contact:

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 North 25 East Chesterton IN 46304
219-926-1952 www.IN.gov/dnr

INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

Park Hours: 7 a.m.–11 p.m.
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Entrance Fees

Daily: \$10.00 with out-of-state plates
\$4.00 with IN plates, Mon.–Thurs.
\$5.00 with IN plates, Fri.–Sun., holidays
\$2.00 per day for walk-ins and bicyclists

Annual entrance permits are available.

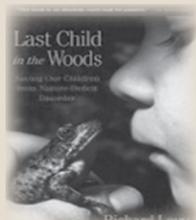
Support the Park with Your Purchases



Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to America's national parks.

Eastern National promotes understanding and support of the National Park Service by providing visitors with the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the importance of preserving and protecting America's national parks for future generations.

Eastern National, a not for profit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications such as this edition of *The Singing Sands*.



Eastern National Bookstore



A variety of educational items are available for purchase at Eastern National bookstore. The online store is at www.easternnational.org or www.eparks.com.

1. West Beach

There is much to do at West Beach, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Grill 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.

2. Portage Lakefront

October 2008 will mark the opening of the national lakeshore's newest location, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. The new facility will offer parking for 125 cars, an accessible fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that will contain a food service area.

3 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.

4. Bailly/Chellberg

Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era Swedish farmstead. Enjoy the Duneland Harvest Festival during the third full weekend of September and Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Mnoke Prairie, the Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

5. Ly-co-ki-we Trail

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

6. Lake View

As the national lakeshore's only picnic area overlooking Lake Michigan, this site offers covered picnic shelters. Beautiful sunset views make this one of the more popular park spots.

7. Dunewood Campground

Dunewood is just over one-mile south of Lake Michigan and features 78 wooded campsites. Enjoy camping with the convenience of modern restrooms and showers. Fees are charged, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The campgrounds are open the months of April through October.

8. Mount Baldy

Hike the trail 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.

9. Pinhook Bog

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 a ranger-led tour.



Water Safety
 Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rip currents occur frequently during periods of high wind and waves. 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.

Note: There are no lifeguards at any national lakeshore beaches during the fall, winter and spring.