



The SINGING SANDS

2020 - Vol. 42 No. 1 Winter/Spring

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facebook.com/
IndianaDunesNPS



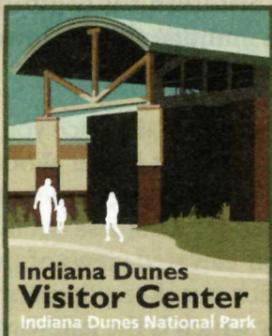
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twitter.com/IndianaDunesNPS



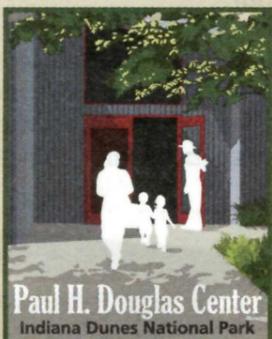
instagram.com/indianadunesnps



Indiana Dunes National Park Visitor Center

1215 IN-49, Chesterton, IN 46304
GPS: N41.6336 W87.0544
(219) 395-1882

Open daily 8:00 am - 6:00 pm in the
summer and 8:30 am - 4:30 pm in
the winter - spring.



Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

100 N Lake St, Gary, IN 46403
GPS: N41.6061 W87.2678
(219) 395-1824

Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm in the
summer and 9:00 am - 4:00 pm in
the winter - spring.

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

Why the new name and what does it mean?

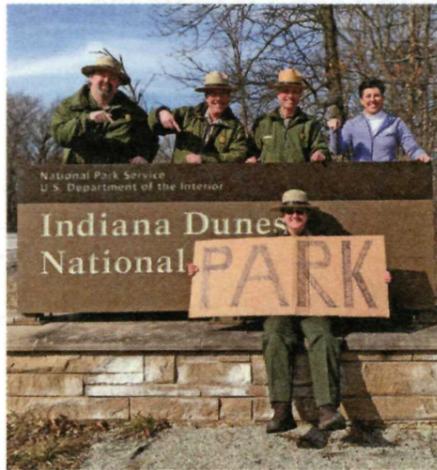
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established on November 5th 1966 and was redesignated a National Park on February 15, 2019, making it the country's 61st national park. The 53 year old Indiana Dunes National Park includes 15,000 acres of the southern shore of Lake Michigan and surrounds the Indiana Dunes State Park, which manages 2,182 acres, and is owned, managed, and protected by the state of Indiana. The State Park entrance lies at the north end of State Road 49 in Porter County while the National Park's 22 miles stretch from its eastern boundary near Michigan City, IN and continues west toward Gary, IN.

So What has Changed?

More visitors! Since its new designation, the park has seen 70 percent more visitors at our main visitor center. In 2018, the Indiana Dunes National Park total visitation at the visitor center alone was 93,502 visitors. As of November 1, 2019, the Visitor Center's count is 161,552. The Visitor Center has a sign-in kiosk that shows visitation statistics and comments from visitors around the country and the world. This year's October numbers showed that 46 out of 50 states were represented by signing the book as well as 19 countries.

Here is what one of our recent visitors said, "Living in Dublin Ireland, I was listening to Dublin City FM radio station and heard advertisements for Indiana Dunes. This advert grabbed my attention as I was due to visit Chicago and Indiana, so I googled Indiana Dunes and was amazed to see that the Dunes now has National Park status. Needless to say, I immediately added a visit to them to my itinerary, and I was so glad I did. My trip to the USA was very short, only four days, but I was thrilled that I was able to make it to your Visitor Center, and definitely the next time we are all visiting the area again, we will spend more time in Indiana exploring the Dunes."

Visitors are not the only folks who are excited about the name change. "Northwest Indiana has a new feather in its cap, and we all have an opportunity to use the Indiana



Dunes to increase our economic development," said Lorelei Weimer, the executive director of Indiana Dunes Tourism.

Why Was the Name Changed?

Here are a few reasons behind the re-designation and how it has helped the local communities and state. In 1916, the first Director of the National Park Service, Stephen Mather, wanted to make a Sand Dunes National Park as one of the first national parks. He even held a public forum in Chicago in October of 1916 and presented the question to the audience, to which they replied with a resounding, "Yes!" Unfortunately, in 1917, with the US entering WWI, the cry to "Save the Dunes" was changed to "First Save the Country, then Save the Dunes." Eventually, the special qualities of the area resulted in the



formation of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1926. It wasn't until 1952, with the creation of the Save the Dunes by founder Dorothy Buell that a second charge was led, resulting in the establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966.

The Indiana Dunes is the 4th most biologically diverse area with regards to flora and fauna, out of all the 419 national park sites. That means our 15,000 acres compares

with the millions acres of much larger parks. "The park is one of the most ecologically diverse places in North America," said park superintendent, Paul Labovitz, noting that it sits at a crossroads where the northern arctic climate meets the southern arid climate. Also, eastern deciduous forest meets prairie at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, which serves as a major bird migration route.

The park has a fantastic contrast between heavy industry and natural preservation. As unsightly as some industrial complexes might appear to some, they are very much part of our American story. We grew up as a nation at the same time we were industrializing. The surrounding industry marks another excellent chapter in American progress and forces us to seek a balance between, "Industrialization and Conservation; work or play?"

In addition, we are an urban park. There are very few urbanized national parks in the nation. Indiana Dunes being a national park means that people of lower income or lesser means can easily and affordably access a national park. We also are easily accessed by public transportation, making our park accessible by train from places as far away as South Bend and the city of Chicago. "The rest of the National Park Service keeps trying to reach diverse, urban audiences, and that's not a problem here," Labovitz said. "We are a place that can introduce people to the national parks in a fairly easy way."

Finally, folks should understand that the park did not receive any additional funding or gain added authority. It will actually cost the park more money. The increased visitation, with its impact on park resources, will definitely come at an increased cost. Not to mention the time and resources needed to change the park's signs and any materials with the former name. Hopefully, the new status as the nation's 61st National Park will increase publicity and will help generate more funding from non-governmental sources and park partners.

by Jean-Pierre Anderson

15

Reasons to Save the Dunes



Can you find us in the park? Take a photo of any of these plants or animals and send it to us via Facebook.

These 15 animals and plants call the dunes home. Some are common; others hard to find. Some are endangered; all are protected since they live in a national park. What can you do to help us protect their habitats?

1. Fowler's toad, *Anaxyrus fowleri*
2. Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*
3. Pitcher's thistle, *Cirsium pitcheri*
4. Jack pine, *Pinus banksiana*
5. Arctic bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
6. Beach pea, *Lathyrus japonicus*
7. Sandhill crane, *Grus canadensis*
8. Six-lined racerunner, *Aspidoscelis sexlineata*
9. Piping plover, *Charadrius melodus* (photo by USFWS)
10. Fringed gentian, *Gentiana crinita*
11. Horned bladderwort, *Utricularia cornuta*
12. Prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia humifusa*
13. Hognose snake, *Heterodon platirhinos*
14. Nodding Lady's tresses, *Spiranthes cernua*
15. Red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

What is it?

It lays its eggs on species of milkweed.

It transforms from a caterpillar into a winged adult in a green shell called a chrysalis.

Like other insects, it has 6 legs, but only uses its middle and hind legs.

It flies to Mexico as part of its life cycle.

It uses its antennae to smell and its legs to taste.



Where is it?

Look in open grassy areas with wildflowers like Mnoké Prairie and Miller Woods at Indiana Dunes National Park. The caterpillars rest and eat on the underside of milkweed leaves. In the summer, the adults sip nectar from wildflowers.

Read more about this creature at the park webpage: NPS.gov/indu/learn/nature/15reasons.htm

Pick up your own 15 Reasons to Save the Dunes temporary tattoo at one of the park visitor centers or at programs where we talk about endangered species!

Hit the Trails Plunker!



Step into those skis, inhale that brisk fresh air, listen to the crunch of snow under stride, and feel the stress lift as you make tracks to a healthier you. Cross-country skiing is a wonderful way to visit the national park and get some exercise.

Let's face it, the local ski days are really hit or miss and the opportunities for skiing are limited by shortened daylight, snowfall, safe driving conditions, and availability to recreate. So, when ski weather conditions and availability connect, it's truly a magical chance to embrace the trails and have some fun.

Studies show that you can burn over 1,000 calories per hour on dynamic trails. Endurance, cardiovascular health and increased energy are wonderful paybacks for strapping on the skis. Research has confirmed that just being in nature reduces stress, boosts immune system, lowers blood pressure, improves mood and increases ability to focus.

If you're not up for a vigorous ski, just cruise the trails at a pace you enjoy while taking in the beautiful scenery. The trails at Miller Woods have great options. Skiers can follow the gentle undulating slopes of the black oak savanna or follow the old railroad bed for a flat less strenuous journey. The old railroad bed offers spectacular elevated views of the rolling hills and habitats. Visitors can even check out ski equipment or snowshoes for FREE at the Douglas Center which is the gateway to Miller Woods!

If you have your own skis, you may want to try the Tolleston or Glenwood Dune Trails for a more challenging course. These trails offer a greater chance for solitude and steeper slopes. Tolleston Dune Trail has 127 feet of elevation gain and 2.9 miles of trail, while Glenwood Dune Trail has 129 feet of elevation gain and 6.8 miles of trail. There may even be a fire and hot chocolate waiting for you at the warming hut once you complete your adventure. Check with the visitor center to see if staff are working at the warming hut before you head out.

Please note that these trails are not groomed and touring or backcountry skis are recommended. Ski conditions are best with four or more inches of snow. Be safe, dress in layers, stay hydrated, let people know where you're going, have communications and an emergency plan in place.

3

Ski Trails

Paul H. Douglas Trail
Glenwood Dune Trail
Tolleston Dune Trail



Ski Conditions

219 395-1882 219 395-1885

Superintendent's Corner

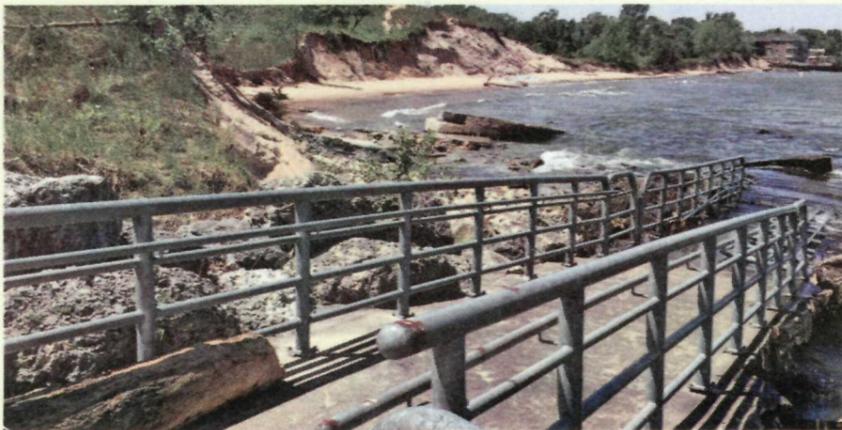
By Paul Labovitz, Park Superintendent

Nature Always Wins

What a difference five years can make. When I arrived in 2014, Lake Michigan was just beginning to climb out of historic low water levels. In 2019, Lake Michigan was inches from reaching the highest level ever recorded. Impacts to our National Park are many and it's a reminder of the power of water; the power of nature.

The most resilient coastline is a natural coastline. Any artificial modification to the lakefront causes a ripple effect of change that results in accelerated erosion via the shifting of the natural flow of water and sand. All around the Great Lakes, man-made structures built too close to the lake's edge, are suffering catastrophic damage from the forces of nature. The solution is simple, respect the lake and don't develop in harm's way.

Our lakefront is not much different from the ocean coast or the banks of large rivers. Attempts to prevent erosion by the installation of engineered structures like seawalls and rip-rap may appear to protect short stretches of coast but in reality just transfer the lake's energy to either side of the structure



where erosion is accelerated and the damage predictable. The cause of the problems of today lie in poor decisions and choices in the past. Repeating the same mistakes to address current conditions will result in the same problems re-occurring in the future. The long term, sustainable solution is the need to retreat from the lake's edge and to restore a natural, resilient coastline.

There is no way to accurately predict what the lake will do over the next few years. The pattern of high/low water levels will likely continue but the extent and duration of the changes are unknown. What we do know is this pattern will repeat over time and when the lake retreats and levels decrease, we should respect that coastal zone and not build anything that will create future problems.

Our visitors will see changes in the facilities they visit and may need to select a different beach to enjoy as the lake comes and goes. Enjoy this pattern over time and understand how the Great Lakes have changed over the past few thousand years and seek to understand the forces behind nature.



Beach walkway, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 2019

Finding a Way Forward: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Indiana Dunes National Park

In late August 2019, staff at Indiana Dunes National Park and colleagues from iSWOOP (Interpreters and Scientists Working On Our Parks) (an NSF (National Science Foundation) funded four-year-project to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning in national parks), took important steps toward inclusion and equity in park programming. Superintendent Paul Labovitz succinctly acknowledged the need for this work; the parks are founded on the idea that they are for "public use and enjoyment for all Americans." For a century we haven't communicated with all Americans in a conscious way...

This project began with an intern who was hired by the park and its partner, TERC (Technical Education Research Centers), to connect with new Latinx groups, primarily out of Chicago. Working with these community groups, several Latinx leaders made it clear, however, that organizing one-time field trips would not be a successful strategy for launching partnerships. To lay the groundwork for equitable partnerships, they suggested a gathering for organizers and educators to meet key staff and find points for collaboration.

In response, iSWOOP staff coordinated the first event of its kind: iSWOOP & POC (People of Color) Leaders at the Dunes. Rangers from Indiana Dunes National Park, the Great Lakes Education



and Research Center and 16 environmentalists and educators of color from NW Indiana and Chicago convened to: inspire new partnerships that will shift attendance patterns and increase STEM learning at national parks and establish equitable partnerships for our communities to engage in STEM learning.

During the weekend event, POC leaders met park staff, hiked, paddled, swam, talked with each other, and met with three local scientists. After the event, it became clear how important certain choices were for building trust and credibility with participants. The concerns and questions POC leaders raised are indicative of the way people from diverse communities can expand the conversations about

the relevance of science and the ways communities of color engage with the science underway at national parks. As we are excited about continuing this work and using the event as a model, we want to share our experiences and reflections.

NPS (National Park Service) staff called the discussions eye-opening. Park staff realized that hosting people of color means starting conversations with law enforcement in nearby communities, clarifying their relationship with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), dispelling fears, and fielding emotional reactions to the NPS logo (which borrows the arrowhead shape traditionally associated with indigenous people). For POC leaders, NPS staff, and iSWOOP

partners all saw the extent to which groundwork has to be laid to support rich STEM engagement. None of it is easy, but it is all easier with partners.

iSWOOP, Interpreters and Scientists Working on Our Parks, is itself a partnership, with leadership from Nikolay Hristov, wildlife biologist, Louise Allen, wildlife biologist of Winston-Salem State University, NPS staff, and with contributions from generous scientists around the country. Learn more about iSWOOP at iswoopparks.com

Martha Merson, TERC, Cambridge, MA
Dejah Powell, Environmental Organizer, Chicago, IL
Kimberly Swift, Indiana Dunes National Park



December Programs

PARK PROGRAM QUICK FINDER	
	Hiking / Outdoor Fun / Ranger-Led
	Movie Showings
	Park Science and Environmental Learning
	Volunteer Activities
	Activities for Kids or Children Related
	Plants and Gardening Activities
	Art in the National Park
	Birding Activities
	Bus Tours and Transportation
	Stargazing and Night Time Activities
	Parties and Celebrations
	Special Ranger-Led or Park Related Activities
	Music

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Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
December 1 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog Upland Trail Hike	Join a ranger for a hike on Pinhook Bog's often overlooked Upland Trail. The hike showcases the bog's watershed as you hike a ravine, cross a bridge over a secluded pond that feeds the bog, and through stands of towering trees.	Pinhook Bog
December 1, 8, 15 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
December 7 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Make Your Fishing Tackle Workshop	Make your own fishing tackle under the expert guidance of a park ranger in anticipation of the next fishing season.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
December 8 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	French Christmas Concert	Celebrate the holiday season with a French Christmas concert by local folk trio Trois Canards. The songs, sung in both French and English, are accompanied by traditional instruments like the fiddle, hurdy gurdy, and dulcimer.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
December 14 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Holiday Traditions / Swedish Breakfast	Join us as we celebrate "Holiday Traditions in the Dunes." The program takes place at Chellberg Farm and the Dunes Learning Center. Following a Swedish pancake breakfast at the Dunes Learning Center, head out to Chellberg Farm to learn more about the region's cultural history while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon with family and friends. The breakfast starts at 10:00 am and programming at Chellberg Farm at 12:00 pm.	Chellberg Farm, Dunes Learning Center
December 15 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bus Tour of the National Park	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour in one of the national park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free. Reservations required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
December 20 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Holiday Concert	Come out for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
December 21 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Winter Solstice Hike / Campfire	Join rangers for a sunset hike at the Kemil Beach parking lot. Catch the sunset, the rising Full Moon, and enjoy the sweeping views of the Great Marsh from the top of the Dune Ridge Trail. After the hike, gather around a campfire and celebrate the shortest day of the year.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
December 27 10:00 am - 11:00 am	Christmas Bird Count	Join tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas for an adventure. Families, students, amateur birders, and scientists alike, arm themselves with binoculars, bird guides, and checklists and go out on an annual mission to count the world's bird populations. Register and learn more about where and when to conduct your bird count by contacting ranger Christine Gerlach at 219-395-1885 or christine_gerlach@nps.gov.	Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion
December 28 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot

Parties and Celebrations

Holiday Traditions / Swedish Breakfast

December 14 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate "Holiday Traditions in the Dunes." The program takes place at Chellberg Farm and the Dunes Learning Center. Following a Swedish pancake breakfast at the Dunes Learning Center, head out to Chellberg Farm to learn more about the region's cultural history while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon with family and friends. The breakfast starts at 10:00 am and programming at Chellberg Farm at 12:00 pm.

Bus Tours

Relax and Tour the Dunes

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
December 15
January 19
February 16
March 22
April 19
May 10

Stay warm and learn about the national park
Join a ranger for a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Park in one of the park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Space is limited. Call 219-395-1882 to make reservations and to get more information.



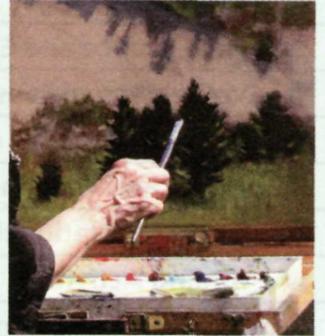
January Programs

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Art in the National Park

Starting in January, meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Programs may be inside or outside. For more information, call 219-395-1882.

Dates include:
 January 11
 February 8
 March 14
 April 11
 May 9



Painting by Artist-in-Residence Gail Franke

All Winter

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
January 4, 11, 18, 25 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Movie Screening	Join a ranger in the Douglas Center's theater for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.	Paul H. Douglas Center
January 4, 11, 18, 25 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Snowshoe Hike	Try out snowshoeing on a ranger-led hike. A limited number of snowshoes available for loan or you can bring your own. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
January 5, 12, 19, 26 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Movie Screening	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theater for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
January 5, 12, 19, 26 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
January 8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children and join a ranger as we read fun nature books, play outdoors, and learn about nature during this two-hour program. Please pre-register by calling 219-395-1824.	Paul H. Douglas Center
January 11 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Art in the National Park	Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
January 17 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Concert	Come out for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
January 18 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Drop-in Volunteering	Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping to care for your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and any equipment will be provided.	Park Connection Office
January 18 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. Join a park ranger for a presentation of some of the national park sites that commemorate the struggle for civil rights.	Paul H. Douglas Center
January 18 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
January 19 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bus Tour of the National Park	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour in one of the national park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free. Reservations required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
January 25 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Science in the National Park	Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45 minute presentation about their research.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Hiking / Outdoor Fun / Ranger-Led

Snowshoe Hikes

January 4, 11, 18, & 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Try out snowshoeing on a ranger-led hike at the Visitor Center. A limited number of snowshoes available for loan or you can bring your own. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead. Check out FREE snowshoes or ski equipment when there's at least 2" of snow base at the Douglas Center, 9am-4pm.

Parties and Celebrations

Celebrating MLK Day at the Dunes

January 18
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Paul H. Douglas Center

Celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. Join a park ranger for a presentation of some of the national park sites that commemorate the struggle for civil rights.



March Programs

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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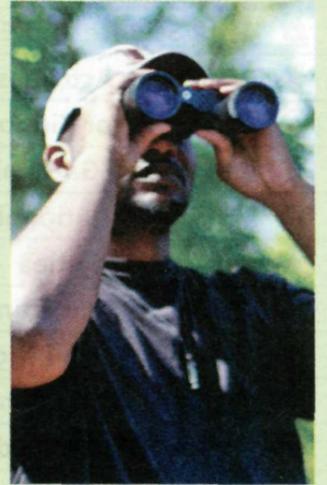
Migration Birding Hike with the Indiana Audubon Society

Mar. - May.

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Returning in March, join birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director Brad Bumgardner for his migration birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot of the month. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.

Dates include:
March 21
April 18
May 9



Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
March 1, 22, 29 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
March 7, 8, 14, 15 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Maple Sugar Time	Enjoy a sweet taste of spring at Indiana Dunes National Park's 39th annual Maple Sugar Time program. Admission is free for all activities.	Chellberg Farm
March 14 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Spring Open House at Dunes Learning Center	Celebrate spring with a day of fun in the dunes! Sample popular activities, tour camp facilities, meet our staff, and ask questions about the upcoming summer season at this annual summer camp kick-off event! Please register online for this free family event at DunesLearningCenter.org/events .	Dunes Learning Center
March 14 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Art in the National Park	Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
March 20 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Concert	Come out for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
March 21 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Migration Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society	Join birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director Brad Bumgardner for his migration birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot of the month. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
March 21 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Drop-in Volunteering	Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping to care for your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and any equipment will be provided.	Park Connection Office
March 21 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildlife Playdate	Kids of all ages are invited to spend a couple of hours having fun in nature. Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Paul H. Douglas Center
March 21 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
March 22 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bus Tour of the National Park	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour in one of the national park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free. Reservations required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
March 28 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Science in the National Park	Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45 minute presentation about their research.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Parties and Celebrations

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 am - 4:00 pm on the weekends of March 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2020.

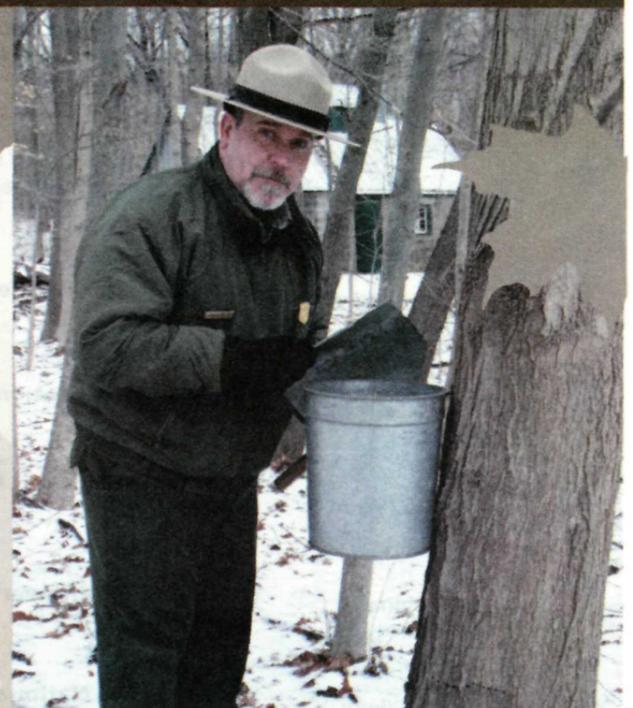
One-hour tours start every 20 minutes each day. Join one to learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Then, stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellberg family did it back 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.

GEOCACHING

Also featuring at Maple Sugar Time

Try out the adventurous and educational multi-geocaching event. 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.



Discover the Wonders of the Maple Sugaring Process!



April Programs

PARK PROGRAM QUICK FINDER		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Hiking / Outdoor Fun / Ranger-Led					1	2	3	4
Movie Showings								
Park Science and Environmental Learning		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Volunteer Activities								
Activities for Kids or Children Related								
Plants and Gardening Activities								
Art in the National Park								
Birding Activities								
Bus Tours and Transportation								
Stargazing and Night Time Activities								
Parties and Celebrations								
Special Ranger-Led or Park Related Activities								
Music								

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
April 4 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
April 4, 18 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildlife Playdate	Kids of all ages are invited to spend a couple of hours having fun in nature. Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Paul H. Douglas Center
April 4 10:00 am - 11:30 am	Native Plant Talk with Nathanael Pilla	Join regional botanist Nathanael Pilla for a presentation on the Indiana Dunes flora and what we can do to minimize our impact where we live. Come celebrate the botanical treasures of the Indiana Dunes.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 4 & 5 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Where to Fish in the National Park	Join local fishing expert and park ranger Ryan Koepke to learn some of the best fishing locations in the national park and surrounding area.	Paul H. Douglas Center
April 5 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Native Plant Talk with Steve Sass	Join regional botanist Steve Sass for a presentation on the Indiana Dunes flora and what we can do to minimize our impact where we live. Come celebrate the botanical treasures of the Indiana Dunes.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 5, 12, 19, 26 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
April 8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children and join a ranger as we read fun nature books, play outdoors, and learn about nature during this two-hour program. Please pre-register by calling 219-395-1824.	Paul H. Douglas Center
April 11 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Art in the National Park	Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 11 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Chellberg Farm Easter Egg Hunt	Come out to historic Chellberg Farm for an Easter egg hunt to celebrate the arrival of spring. Stay afterwards and help feed the farm animals.	Chellberg Farm
April 11 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Feeding at the Farm	Help the park feed the farm animals at the Chellberg Farm.	Chellberg Farm
April 17 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Concert	Come out for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 18 8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Friends of Indiana Dunes Native Plant Sale	Buy natives to add to your yard at the annual plant sale by Friends of Indiana Dunes.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 18 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Migration Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society	Join birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director Brad Bumgardner for his migration birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot of the month. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 18 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Drop-in Volunteering / Chellberg Farm Gardening	Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping to care for your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and any equipment will be provided. Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm garden get off to a great start. Gardening is a great way to spend a morning at your local National Park.	Park Connection Office
April 18 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
April 19 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bus Tour of the National Park	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Park in one of the park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Space is limited. Call 219-395-1882 to make reservations and to get more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 25 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	National Park's Earth Day (Green Gary)	Celebrate Earth Day at this family-oriented event. Exhibits and interactive displays for everyone.	Paul H. Douglas Center
April 25 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Woodland Wildflower Hike	We explore the Little Calumet River flood plain and its great diversity of spring wildflowers. We'll be listening to the spring songs of birds and frogs. Meet at the east Heron Rookery parking lot. Be prepared for muddy conditions.	Heron Rookery
April 25 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Science in the National Park	Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45 minute presentation about their research.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
April 26 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Woodland Wildflower Hike	We explore the Little Calumet River flood plain and its great diversity of spring wildflowers. We'll be listening to the spring songs of birds and frogs. Meet in the Heron Rookery parking lot. Be prepared for muddy conditions.	Heron Rookery



February Programs

PARK PROGRAM QUICK FINDER		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Hiking / Outdoor Fun / Ranger-Led								1
Movie Showings								
Park Science and Environmental Learning								
Volunteer Activities								
Activities for Kids or Children Related								
Plants and Gardening Activities								
Art in the National Park								
Birding Activities								
Bus Tours and Transportation								
Stargazing and Night Time Activities								
Parties and Celebrations								
Special Ranger-Led or Park Related Activities								
Music								

Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
February 1 9:00 am - 3:30 pm	Cabin Fever Festival / Groundhog Day	Tired of winter and hoping that the groundhog doesn't see his shadow? Join us to enjoy a day of fun with plenty indoor and outdoor park activities.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Douglas Center
February 1, 15 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildlife Playdate	Kids of all ages are invited to spend a couple of hours having fun in nature. Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.	Paul H. Douglas Center
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Movie Screening	Join a ranger in the Douglas Center's theater for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.	Paul H. Douglas Center
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Snowshoe Hike	Try out snowshoeing on a ranger-led hike. A limited number of snowshoes available for loan or you can bring your own. If there is not enough snow, we will offer a traditional hike instead.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
February 2, 9, 16, 23 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Movie Screening	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theater for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
February 2, 9, 16, 23 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
February 8 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Art in the National Park	Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
February 12 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children and join a ranger as we read fun nature books, play outdoors, and learn about nature during this two-hour program. Please pre-register by calling 219-395-1824.	Paul H. Douglas Center
February 15 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Drop-in Volunteering	Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping to care for your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and any equipment will be provided.	Park Connection Office
February 15 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
February 16 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bus Tour of the National Park	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour in one of the national park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
February 21 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Concert	Come out for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
February 22 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Science in the National Park	Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45 minute presentation about their research.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Parties and Celebrations

Cabin Fever Festival on Groundhog Day



February 1 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center
 Hoping that the Groundhog doesn't see his shadow? There will be a ton of fun activities for young and old along with free movies and music throughout the day. You can also join a ranger for an outdoor adventure hike or borrow some snowshoes or skis and explore Miller Woods on your own.

Park Science and Environmental Learning

Science in the National Park



2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- January 25
- February 22
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
 Meet local experts and scientists who are conducting research in the national park. Examine the knowledge gained by researchers during a presentation on their work.



May Programs

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival



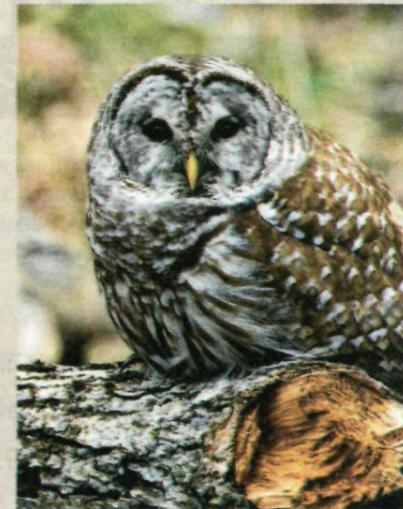
May 14 - 17

All Day

The four-day festival will include over 150 guided field trips and car pool tours, presentations, workshops, and social events to view and learn about nature and migrating birds within the Indiana Dunes region.

Visit the official website at indunesbirdingfestival.com for more information and registration.

There is a fee.



Date & Time	Program	Description	Location
May 1 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Logs to Lustrons Talk	This talk covers 150 years of architectural design. Reservations are required for this special talk and are made on-line with Indiana Landmarks.	Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion
May 2 8:30 am - 2:00 pm	Logs to Lustrons Tour	This tour covers 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 on-line with Indiana Landmarks.	Park-wide
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Lake Michigan Boat Tour	Join a ranger for a guided two-hour boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. Fee and reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Michigan City Millennium Plaza (near the yacht club)
May 2 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildlife Playdate	Kids of all ages are invited to having fun in nature at the park. Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, with much more unique outdoor activities.	Paul H. Douglas Center
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail	Enjoy a ranger-led hike through spectacular Miller Woods on the Paul H. Douglas Trail to the shore of Lake Michigan.	Paul H. Douglas Center
May 8, 22 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Wildland Firefighters at the Visitor Center	Meet the National Park's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 9 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Migration Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society	Join birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director Brad Bumgardner for his migration birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot of the month. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 9 TBD	Horseback Riding on the Beach	Join fellow equestrians for an extremely rare chance to ride on the beaches of Lake Michigan! BYOH (bring your own horse). No horse rentals will be available. Details will be made available mid-April.	West Beach
May 9 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Art in the National Park	Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Indoor and outdoor presentations. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 10 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mother's Day Bus Tour	Join a ranger for a two-hour tour in one of the national park's heated shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 10 10:00 am - 11:30 am 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Mother's Day Wildflower Hike	Join a ranger for a hike to see what spring woodland flowers are blooming. The Rookery is perhaps the best location to see spring wildflowers.	Heron Rookery (east lot)
May 13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Nature Tots	Bring your preschool children and join a ranger as we learn, play outdoors, and have fun reading nature books. Pre-register by calling 219-395-1824.	Paul H. Douglas Center
May 14, 15, 16, 17 All Day	Indiana Dunes Birding Festival	The festival showcases the abundance of migratory birds in the Indiana Dunes, along with walks, hikes, talks, and programs. Visit indunesbirdingfestival.com to register. There is a fee.	Region-wide
May 15 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Music Heritage Series Concert	Come out for a night of folk music and songs from Save the Tunes Council; a group of local musicians, devoted to preserving folk traditions through music.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 16 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Drop-in Volunteering	Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping your local national park. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and any equipment will be provided.	Park Connection Office
May 16 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Junior Wildland Firefighter	Meet the Indiana Dunes National Park's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. After this hands-on program, children will receive their very own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch.	Indiana Dunes State Park
May 16 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Stargazing Through Telescopes	Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from one of the darkest spots in the National Park. Telescopes will be provided for a better view.	Kemil Beach Parking Lot
May 22 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike	Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot for a ranger-led hike to the top of the beautiful and famous Mount Baldy. The sunset over Lake Michigan and the surrounding area is spectacular. No reservation required.	Mount Baldy Parking Lot
May 23, 30 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog Open House	Take an hour long self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants.	Pinhook Bog
May 23 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Science in the National Park	Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45 minute presentation about their research.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 24, 31 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Bailly / Chellberg History Hike	Explore the grounds of both historic homes. Learn about early settlers and farmers who came to this region in the 1800s.	Chellberg Farm Parking Lot
May 24, 31 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Feeding at the Farm	Help the park feed the farm animals at the Chellberg Farm.	Chellberg Farm
May 25 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Memorial Day Movie Screening	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's theater for a screening of a Memorial Day themed documentary.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
May 29 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike	Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot for a ranger-led hike to the top of the beautiful and famous Mount Baldy. No reservation required.	Mount Baldy Parking Lot

Volunteer Today

THE PARK CONNECTION

"Connecting people to the park."



The Park Connection program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities to serve alongside Indiana Dunes National Park employees. Most of our positions do not require a formal application. Simply contact us, and we will find your place in the park.



Scout Me In



Main Office: 618 N Mineral Springs Rd, Porter, IN 46304

Located near the Bailly/Chellberg trailhead

Hours: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Phone: (219) 221-7098

Email: parkconnection@gmail.com

Website: NPS.gov/indu/getinvolved/volunteer.htm

Volunteer Positions:



Let's All Pitch In!

Each year, 100 million pounds of trash end up in Lake Michigan. By participating in Trash Trekkers, you will help to keep the lake clean, protect wildlife, and maintain beautiful beaches for everyone to enjoy! The Trash Trekkers program is based upon a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, Indiana Dunes Tourism, and Indiana Dunes State Park to clean Lake Michigan's shoreline and over 50 miles of park trails. Just show up and we'll provide the gear. Every volunteer that fills up a bag of trash will receive a free Indiana Dunes Volunteer water bottle.



Some of the best scouting adventures happen in National Park Service (NPS) sites like Indiana Dunes. The National Park Service and the Scouts have been close partners for years, sharing a commitment to educate young people about camping, the outdoors, and the environment. Girl and Boy Scout groups can venture to NPS sites to complete advancement requirements, perform service projects, and have a ton of fun. Here at the Indiana Dunes, earning your Scout Ranger Patch is easy. Scout Ranger patches are earned by participating in one Junior Ranger Program, and one volunteering program. For more information about our Scouts program, visit the park's volunteer webpage.



Where: Pick up supplies from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 IN-49, Porter, IN 46304 and the Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403

When: Everyday between 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



B.A.R.K Ranger Ambassadors

Volunteers and their canine companions can become BARK Ambassadors, informing the public on how to properly enjoy the park with their pets. Each volunteer is trained on how to approach visitors and explain the importance of the BARK Ranger rules. Responsibilities vary from assisting with BARK Ranger hikes to having one-on-one interactions with visitors. Email parkconnection@gmail.com to become an ambassador today!



How Can I Help You? – Information Desk Volunteers

This past year has been remarkable for the park and the volunteer program. With the new name designation of Indiana Dunes as the 61st National Park came thousands of new, excited visitors to the parks front door, the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

Lines of visitors waited patiently as our information desk volunteers professionally represented and answered countless public questions about the park and assisted them throughout their exploration of the center and the gift store.

"This past season we witnessed record breaking visitation at the Center and we could not have met the public needs without the help of our volunteers," said Park Ranger and Visitor Center Manager JP Anderson.

Volunteers are essential to the day to day operations of the park. If you have a friendly smile, enjoy talking to people, or just love helping visitors from all over the world, the place for you is at the information desk at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

Top Visitor Questions

What time does the park close?
The national park visitor center closes at 6:00 pm in the summer; 4:30 pm the rest of the year. The Douglas Center operates 9:00 am - 5:00 pm in the summer and closes at 4 pm the rest of the year.

Unless otherwise posted, all public use areas are open daily from 6:00 am-11:00 pm. Note that West Beach has a \$6 amenity fee daily from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Visit www.nps.gov/indu/learn/management/superintendent-compendium.htm for more information on hours throughout the park.

Where can I buy food?
The local towns outside the park have lots of choices for restaurants and grocery stores. Within the park, visitors can grab a bite to eat at concession operations working at West Beach and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.

Which trail is best to hike?
The national park has over 50 miles of trails and the state park another 30+ miles. You can find maps and descriptions on our respective websites: www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/maps.htm or www.dnr.in.gov. You can also download the free REI app called the Hiking Project at www.hikingproject.com to learn about lots of trails in both parks. This app allows visitors to add content and photos about their favorite hikes.

Are there two Indiana Dunes parks?
Yes, in addition to Indiana Dunes National Park, there is Indiana Dunes State Park. The state park entrance is located north of the Visitor Center, and features dunes, miles of beautiful beach and a modern campground. For more information, 219-926-1952.

Where may I climb a dune?
Long Lake Trail at West Beach has a dune face on the marked trail, which visitors enjoy climbing. In addition, it hosts the Dunes Succession Trail and a set of stairs to traverse the dune. Both dunes offer great views.

Do you close the beach when high waves are present or E. coli levels are high?
No. The national park 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 the Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 for information regarding E. coli levels.

May I take my pet with me for a hike?
Yes. Pets are permitted on most park trails and beaches as long as they are leashed (6' or less). Pets are prohibited inside government buildings, except for the West Beach bathhouse.

West Beach – From Memorial Day through Labor Day, pets are prohibited on the beach within the lifeguarded area. This area is the section of beach directly north of the bathhouse stairs and is designated along the beach with park signs. Pets are only permitted to walk through the lifeguarded area to reach the beaches on either side of the closure area.

Pets are not allowed on the Glenwood Dunes Trail, Pinhook Bog Trail and the designated nature play areas. This avoids conflicts with equestrian riders, protects sensitive vegetation, and compatible use with other visitors.

Do you have a campground?
Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open April 1st through November 1st. It is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores (see map on back). Its 66 campsites are available for a fee of \$25.00 per night. **Credit or debit card ONLY. No cash or checks accepted.** Sites 1 - 34 can be reserved at recreation.gov.

Restrooms are centrally located in each loop and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects or you can use downed wood in the campground.

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.

Can I take public transportation to the park?
Yes. The South Shore train has four stops near park access sites and runs between Chicago and South Bend. For a schedule, visit mysouthshoreline.com.

Stay on the trails to protect fragile areas, plants, and animals.



 Access for All Whether you use a wheelchair, need assistance with hearing, or can't maneuver the sand with your walker, we have a variety of services available for increased accessibility. Call 219 395-1824 or 219 395-1882 for information and use.	
Mobility	
Two Seated Bicycle	Paul H. Douglas Center
*Freedom Trax – A motorized wheelchair attachment that is all-terrain and fits to your chair. The electrical track is steered by a joystick.	
*Youth Wheel Chair for rougher terrain. This chair must be pushed or pulled.	
Large Wheeled Beach Wheelchair – Just ask staff at entrance gate for use. (Memorial Day through Labor Day)	West Beach
Hearing	
Ubi-Duo device—visitors can type questions on a shared screen	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Closed Caption Park Video	Center
Great Trails and Accessible Views	
A predominantly cement walkway and provides a nice path on nearby terrain. The pier is designed for universal access and is a great spot for bird watching.	Portage Lake Front and Riverwalk
Fully accessible walking and allows visitors to view two marsh areas, picnic area, and a play zone.	Paul H. Douglas Center
Provides a ramp down to the sand and has easy access to restrooms and picnic shelters.	West Beach
Allows visitors of all abilities to enjoy great views of the lake and accessible picnic shelters.	Lake View
*Equipment made possible in coordination with Dunes Learning Center and/or Miller Spotlight.	

Thank You Park Partners

 Dunes Learning Center www.duneslearningcenter.org	 Dunes National Park Association www.dunesnationalpark.org	 Friends of Indiana Dunes www.friendofindianadunes.org	 Indiana Dunes State Park www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm	 Indiana Dunes Tourism www.indianadunes.com
 Indiana Landmarks www.indianalandmarks.org	 Northwest Indiana Paddling Association www.nwipa.org	 South Shore Line www.mysouthshoreline.com	 Save the Dunes www.savedunes.org	 Visit the South Shore South Shore CVA www.southshorecva.com

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 Paul H. Douglas Trail to Lake Michigan features beautiful views of small ponds nestled among wooded dunes. 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 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 park'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/Chellberg

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 Mnoke Prairie, Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

6 Glenwood Dunes Trail

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

7 Lake View Beach

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 there are two types of registration. One is a first-come, first-served basis and the other is made online at recreation.gov. Credit card or debit card only; no cash or checks accepted. Campground season dates are April 1- October 31.

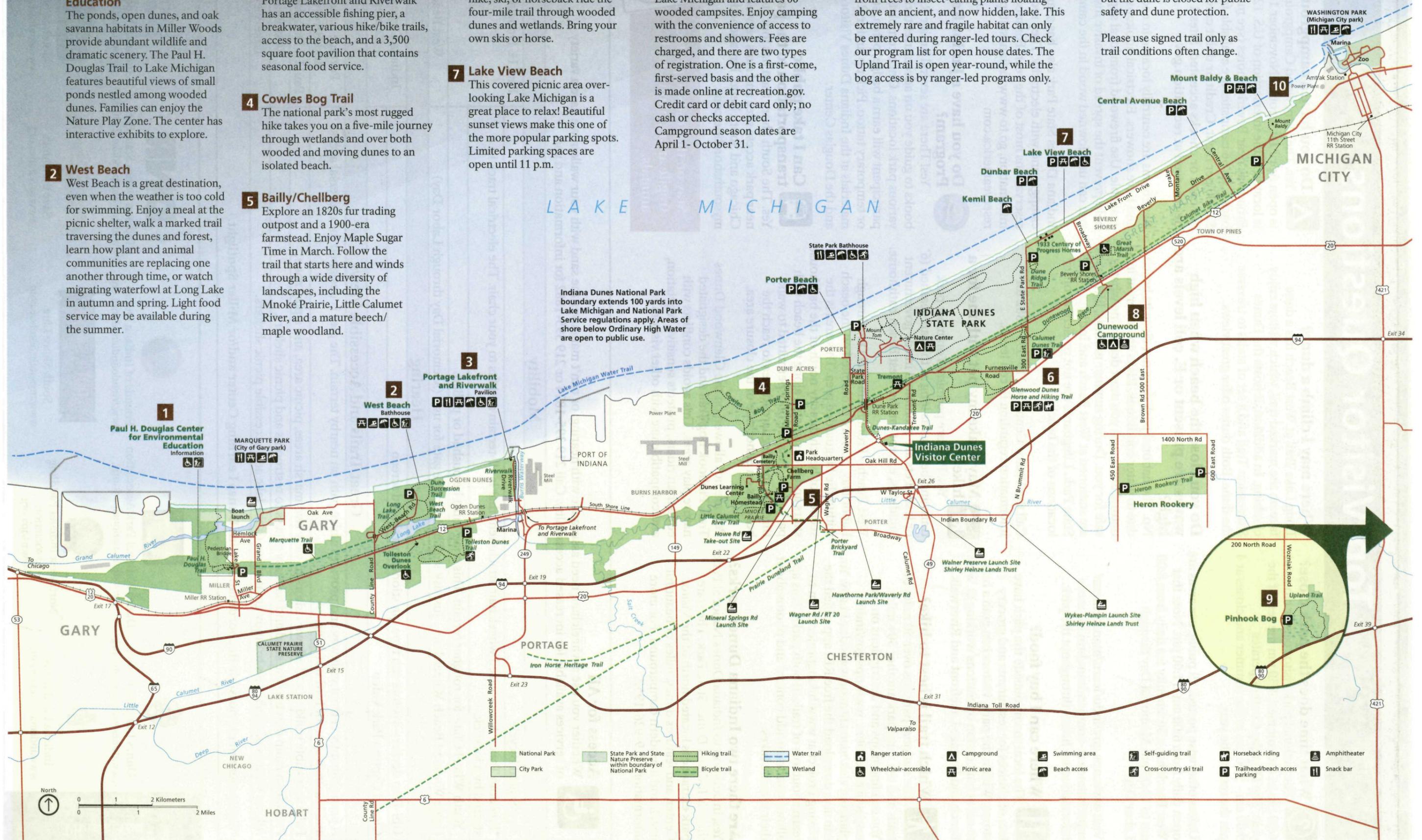
9 Pinhook Bog & Upland Trail

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 year-round, while the bog access is by ranger-led programs only.

10 Mount Baldy & Beach

The Mount Baldy beach is open but the dune is closed for public safety and dune protection.

Please use signed trail only as trail conditions often change.



LAKE MICHIGAN

Indiana Dunes National Park boundary extends 100 yards into Lake Michigan and National Park Service regulations apply. Areas of shore below Ordinary High Water are open to public use.



- National Park
- State Park and State Nature Preserve within boundary of National Park
- City Park
- Hiking trail
- Bicycle trail
- Water trail
- Wetland
- Ranger station
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Campground
- Picnic area
- Swimming area
- Beach access
- Self-guiding trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Horseback riding
- Amphitheater
- Trailhead/beach access parking
- Snack bar