Welcome to Salamonie Lake's Bloodroot Trail. This hiking/biking trail is a 13-mile loop that starts at the Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area (SRA), wanders through fields and woods to Mt. Etna SRA and then returns along the beautiful bluffs overlooking the lake. In winter, when there is heavy snow cover, the trail is part of the Salamonie Snowmobile Trail. The Bloodroot Trail is of moderate difficulty, with some hills and valleys, and is well marked. The trail can be traversed in either direction but users must be alert to avoid conflicts with other users.

There are two campsites available along the primitive trail at a cost of $10/night. They are not available through the Campground Reservation System (CRS) but are available first-come, first-served.

Location: Salamonie Lake is located in Huntington and Wabash counties in northeastern Indiana on the Salamonie River. State roads 9, 124, and 105 cross the property and U.S. 24 and Interstate 69 are close by.

Origin of Trail Name: The name Salamonie was derived from the Native American word O-sah-mo-nee that means yellow paint. Native Americans made yellow paint from the bloodroot plant that grew in great abundance along the winding banks of the river.

Safety Precautions: Salamonie Lake is a multiple-use property. Hunting, camping, fishing and other recreational activities are allowed in designated areas. Parts of the Bloodroot Trail run through designated hunting areas. While using the trail in fall or winter, users are strongly encouraged to wear hunter orange clothing.

Campgrounds: Trail users have a choice of several different campgrounds where they can stay for a fee, all located in Lost Bridge West SRA. Youth groups can camp in the Youth Campground. Some of the facilities available there are drinking-water faucets, pit toilets, a shelter house, basketball court, volleyball court and fishing. A nature center and a swimming beach are also within short walking distance. There is a modern campground with electric sites, showers, flush toilets and a dump station. The Apple Orchard primitive campground with pit toilets and drinking water also is available. All sites are reservable online at: camp.IN.gov or by calling 1-866-6campIN.

Trail Awards: Those who traverse the entire trail are entitled to wear the Bloodroot Trail patch (pictured below). There are no trail user fees but an entrance fee will be charged at the front gatehouse during the main recreational season. Trail awards are purchased on a voluntary basis and are available at the Otter Run Tradin’ Post at the Salamonie Interpretive Center. They also have other souvenirs and gifts available.