

Native Americans found their way into this region at least 8,000 years ago and developed lifestyles that we celebrate today. Euro-American settlers moved from Kentucky and Ohio, establishing the first homesteads in the 1820s. They cleared the woodlands to make way for an agricultural economy.

The creation of the military post came about due to the changing face of the state and nation. During the Civil War, the Indianapolis Arsenal supplied munitions to federal troops. Located near the State House from 1861 to 1865, the War Department later moved the arsenal east of downtown to Woodruff Place. By 1901, as the city grew, the War Department planned to close the arsenal.

Many community members felt strongly that some military presence should remain in the city to honor the tradition the arsenal played in ending slavery and maintaining the Union. Lt. Col. Russell Harrison, son of deceased President Benjamin Harrison, suggested naming any remaining military facility in honor of his father.

On June 28, 1904, the War Department issued General Order No. 117, officially announcing the purchase of land for "military purposes...about nine miles northeasterly from Indianapolis." In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated Fort Benjamin Harrison in honor of the 23rd president and Indianapolis resident.

On a national scale, the fort represented the first effort to create a national army out of a collection of state militias. The post served multiple roles as a troop reception center, classroom and soldier support facility during all major military conflicts from WWI to Desert Storm. Today, Fort Harrison State Park continues to preserve the greenspace that the Army kept out of development from 1903-1996. Today, you can experience forests and meadows, wildlife and revealing glimpses into our past.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall follow our rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

To help the state park with its ongoing mission, a Friends of Fort Harrison State Park group has been created. For membership information please contact the park at 317-591-0904.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Overnight camping is not allowed in the park.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- This is a day-use park. Help keep it clean. Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy—take all your trash with you when you leave the park.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park in designated areas; roadside parking is not allowed. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on hiking trails, the Harrison Trace, or through the bicycle/pedestrian entrance on Boy Scout Road. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- Mountain biking is allowed in the park only on designated trails.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

PARK HOURS:

Regular Season: April-October—7 a.m.-dusk*

Off Season: Nov.-March—8 a.m.-dusk*

*For dusk closing hours, check the posting at the front gate or call (317) 591-0904. Gates close promptly.

Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BIKING—Allowed only on paved park roads, designated multi-use trails and the Harrison Trace Trail. Bicycles are prohibited on the golf course.

FISHING—State license required. Check park signs and bulletin boards for special regulations.

HORSE TRAIL RIDES—Guided rentals are available during the operating season from April through October. For more information regarding operating hours, lessons, hayrides and special-event rides, call (317) 541-1866 during the season.

MUSEUM OF 20TH CENTURY WARFARE (M20CW)—Operated by volunteers and open to the public March through November. It includes displays, a library, special events, re-enactments and a unique model of the USS Indianapolis. Free with park admission.

PICNIC AREAS—Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields available. Shelters may be reserved through the Central Reservation System. No camping.

RECREATION BUILDINGS—Two recreation buildings, 701 and 702, located in Camp Glenn, are available for rent. Call (317) 591-0904 for more information.

VISITOR CENTER—Experience the natural and cultural history of the park through park and interpretive programs. Open all year. For more information see InterpretiveServices.IN.gov.

WINTER ACTIVITIES—With enough snow, sledding hill is open until dusk. Cross-country skiing allowed on park trails. Woodland walks and winter birding are popular. Reddick Shelter has a fireplace.

DOG PARK—11-acre area is equipped with water stations, benches, and waste stations. The dog park provides a space for dog lovers to get outdoors and enjoy a section of the park saved just for them. Contact the office for membership details.

For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

• **Mounds State Park**—camping, fishing, hiking trails, interpretive services & center, historic features, picnic area, play/sports area, shelter house, swimming pool, youth tent areas

• **Wilbur Wright Fish and Wildlife Area**—dog training areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Fall Creek Trail	1 mile	Moderate

1.1 miles from start to Duck Pond. Start this trail at the northeast corner of the Delaware Lake picnic area. The trail follows the lowlands along Fall Creek, then heads uphill as it nears Duck Pond. Overall distance can be shortened or varied by taking one of the three cutoff trails that connect to the Harrison Trace. Excellent for birding, fishing access, and wildflower and tree identification.

Camp Creek Trail	2 miles	Moderate
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Trail begins off Harrison Trace near the eastern banks of Delaware Lake with the apex of the bend passing Duck Pond. This trail passes by an old army rubble pile and contains many beautiful vistas from the bluffs of the quaint Camp Creek valley.

Harrison Trace	3.2 miles	Easy
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This is an asphalt surface trail for walkers, bicyclists and joggers. The trail begins at the Delaware Lake picnic area. After passing Delaware Lake, the trail follows the rolling upland above Fall Creek. Although the trail is graded and paved, it is not flat. Much of the trail is tree-covered and wildflowers grow next to the walking surface all season long. This is the easiest route to Duck Pond.

Lawrence Creek Trail	4 miles	Difficult
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Start this loop trail at either the Lawrence Creek Trailhead or the Walnut Trailhead parking area on the west side of the park. The trail winds through upland woods and ravines. This is an excellent choice for observing fall color. Northern sections of the trail tend to remain wet all summer, providing a wonderful wildflower show. This is a single-track, multi-use, hike and bike trail. Bikers yield to hikers.

Tree Line Trail	1 miles	Easy
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This mowed trail follows the outer edge of Millenium Grove picnic area in Camp Glenn. Look for different species of trees and wildflowers along the route.

Schoen Creek Trail	3 miles	Difficult
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Begin at the Schoen Creek Trailhead east of the saddle barn. Follow the trail through wetlands, prairie grasses, woods and ravines. This is a single-track, multi-use, hike and bike trail.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free. Call: **1-866-6campIN** (1-866-622-6746) Online: **camp.IN.gov**

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone.

Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371) Online: **IndianalInns.com**

FORT HARRISON STATE PARK INN, THE FORT GOLF COURSE, and THE GARRISON RESTAURANT



- Lodging (guest rooms, suites, officer homes)
- Meetings
- Weddings
- Full service dining
- 18-hole golf course

Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371) Online: **IndianalInns.com** Meeting or wedding info: (317) 638-6000 Tee Times & Golf Info: (317) 543-9597

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Fort Harrison State Park
5753 Glenn Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Call: (317) 591-0904
Online: on.IN.gov/forharrisonsp
Saddle Barn: (317) 541-1866
M20CW: (463) 800-2360

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at stateparks.IN.gov.

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit OutdoorIndiana.org or call **317-233-3046**.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

FORT HARRISON STATE PARK



Landscape and history blend in a unique setting in northeast Indianapolis at Fort Harrison State Park.

Located at Post Road and 59th Street, the 1,744-acre park features walking and jogging trails, picnic sites, fishing access to Fall Creek and two national historic districts.

Come see the Visitors Center to view exhibits and experience the preserved Citizens Military Training Camp, CCC Headquarters, and World War II prisoner of war camp. Spring is a great season to enjoy woodland wildflowers, watch for warblers migrating north or listen for the elusive pileated woodpecker. Great winter activities include use of the sledding hill and fitness walking.

Glacial advances into central Indiana left fertile ground colonized by lichens, mosses and wildflowers. Over time, a rich soil supported a hardwood forest composed of beech, maple, sycamore and ash. Wildlife, including elk, bison, river otters, black bears, passenger pigeons and bass, once filled the drainages of the Fall Creek valley.

on.IN.gov/stateparks

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