

HISTORY AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Through the ages, the rushing waters of what is now known as the “Mississinewa” (Miami name Mischisin-wah... water on a slope) washed away the soft limestone of the riverbank, creating a number of pillar-like formations known as “Cliffs of the Seven Pillars.” This wonder of nature may be viewed from the riverbank reached via footpath from the Frances Slocum Trail.

The “Frances Slocum Trail” was named in honor of a white woman raised by Native Americans. On Nov. 2, 1778, Frances, at the age of 5, was taken from her Quaker home at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., by the Delaware, who named her “We-let-a-wah.” She grew up to be so strong that her name was later changed to “Ma-con-a-quah” - Little Bear Woman. She married Shepoconnah, War Chief, and when he later became deaf and resigned as chief, they established a trading post called “Deaf Man’s Village” about nine miles above Peru on the Mississinewa River. These wealthy Native Americans had a standard of living that far exceeded that of the early white man in the same area. Deaf Man’s Village became a social center, not only for the residents but also for the white men.


Deaf Man died in 1833 and Frances built a two-room cabin across the road, next to the burial place of her husband and two small sons. Frances Slocum’s identification was not learned until September 1837 when her brother, Issac Slocum, identified her by a scar on her left hand. As a result she was no longer eligible, as an Indian, for the pension made possible by the Treaty of 1826 since she was a “white woman.” In 1838 her two daughters were given 640 acres of land, including their mother’s original homesite. Frances and her family were permitted to stay in Indiana because John Quincy Adams eloquently defended her case in Congress. She died on March 9, 1847, and was buried next to her husband and two small sons in the cemetery next to her cabin. In May 1900, that area was named the Frances Slocum Cemetery. The site of the present cemetery and memorial is indicated on the map side of the brochure.


DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY


- **Salamonie Lake**—boating, boat ramps, boat rental, bridle trails, camping, interpretive center, picnicking, dump station, fishing, fishing pier, youth tent areas, hiking trails
- **J. Edward Roush Fish and Wildlife Area**—Boating, boat ramp, fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife watching, shooting range


Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES


 **BEACH**—Swimming is available during posted hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day. A modern beachhouse provides showers, changing area, restrooms and concession area. Shelter house, picnic tables, grills and volleyball courts area also available at the beach.


 **LAKE USE**—An annual lake-use permit is required for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft using the lake from the LaFontaine car top access to the dam.


 **BOAT RAMPS**—Each of the four state recreation areas has a concrete boat ramp. There are six car top access sites located in the resource management areas east of State Road 13.


 **CAMPING**—Miami SRA has modern campgrounds with hot showers and flush toilets. Full Hookup (sewage, water and electric hookups), Electric and Non-electric sites. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Three playgrounds, horseshoe pit, volleyball and basketball courts and 24-hole disc golf course available. A mooring area is provided for boats, but it is not adjacent to the campsites. Reservations for all types of camping are available through the Central Reservation System.

 **FISHING**—Many varieties of fish can be caught in the lake. Fishing piers are available in Miami SRA during May and into October.

 **HIKING**—Marked trails are available all year.

 **HUNTING**—All hunters are required by law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter sign-in station. Hunting is allowed in designated wildlife areas in season. No hunting is permitted within areas marked as safety zones, seasonal refuges or restricted areas. Hunters are not required to sign in and out of the Corps hunting area.

 **INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Programs are presented in the summer at the Miami modern campground. Program schedules are available at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or (260) 468-2127.

 **PICNIC AREAS and SHELTERS**—Both the Miami and Frances Slocum SRA provide shady and scenic views of the lake with access to picnic tables, grills and water. There are two shelters in the Miami SRA and one shelter in the Frances Slocum SRA. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System. The Corps of Engineers maintains two shelters, one at the Outlet Fishing Site and one at the Observation Mound Recreation Area. They can be used on a “first-come, first-served” basis, or reserved through the Corps of Engineers Office.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- No person shall conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir property administered by the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs without a proper license.
- No person shall launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or other floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the DNR for those purposes. No person shall leave watercraft unattended in a courtesy dock.
- Any firearm, including a handgun, BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, or paint gun must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one-day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign-in station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- A person who possesses a pet must attend the animal at all times and keep it caged or on a leash no more than 6 feet long.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the DNR is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, 30 mph maximum and park only in designated areas.
- No person shall possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach.
- 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 property office.
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors requires a special permit.
- Vehicles must operate on mapped roads only.

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

THIS IS YOUR LAKE

Visitors shall observe DNR property regulations, which are designed to protect your property for future generations. Highlights of these regulations are listed below.

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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Mississinewa Lake
4673 S. 625 E.
Peru, IN 46970-9745

Call: 765-473-6528
Fax: 765-473-7942

Online: on.IN.gov/mississinewalake

Lake levels, water releases, and the dam:

Write: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5613 E. Mississinewa Dam Rd.
Peru, IN 46970-9745

Call: 765-473-5946
Fax: 765-473-8643

Online: www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Locations/Lakes/Mississinewa-Lake/

Chicago District Headquarters

Write: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Call: 312-846-5330

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the lake. 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!



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andreservoirs



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DESCRIPTIONS OF TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Easy Access Trail	.4 miles	Easy

This paved loop is in the Frances Slocum picnic area. A brochure is available at the property office.

Lost Sister Trail	2.5 miles	Moderate
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This moderate, self-guided loop trail winds through mature woods with excellent wildflowers in spring. A self-guided brochure is available at the property office.

Blue Heron Trail	2.5 miles	Moderate
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This loop trail traverses moderate terrain, is located in the Miami SRA and includes several scenic views of the lake and dam. A self-guided brochure is available at the property office.

Moswa Trail	1.5 miles	Moderate
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This loop trail crosses meadows, follows Troyer’s Creek and includes a spur through woods to a pond.

Shepoconnah Trail	1 mile	Moderate
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This trail begins behind the modern campground and wanders through open meadows and young forest. Look for deer, nesting birds and summer wildflowers.

Wildlife Area Hiking

Parking lots are provided near many areas, and access lanes provide paths. For more information, contact the property office. Hunting is allowed in many of these areas in season. Hunter orange clothing is recommended.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

DAM

Type	earth fill
Maximum height	140 feet
Length	8,000 feet
Drainage area above dam	809 square miles

OPERATING LEVELS

	Elevation (Feet mean sea level)	Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)
Winter Pool	712	1,280	11
Summer Pool	737	3,180	20
Flood Pool	779	12,830	31

PARTNERSHIPS

The U.S. Corps of Engineers has developed a partnership in the management of the public land at Mississinewa Lake. Under a lease agreement, the Indiana DNR operates and maintains the recreational facilities and wildlife areas at the lake, except for the areas noted on the map.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

MISSISSINEWA
LAKE



This lake operates as a unit with J. Edward Roush and Salamonie lakes to reduce flood stages in the Upper Wabash Basin and with other lakes downstream in reduction of Lower Wabash and Ohio River floods.

Situated seven miles southeast of Peru in north central Indiana on the Mississinewa River, Mississinewa Lake is located on State Road 13 and is accessible from U.S. 31 on the west and S.R. 15 on the east.

Mississinewa Lake was designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This map will acquaint you with the lake’s two most-used recreation areas: the Miami and Frances Slocum state recreation areas (SRA). The entire property includes two other recreation areas, several small boat launch sites and more than 9,000 acres of land managed for wildlife.

on.IN.gov/stateparks