of several mounds. Although later cultures, such as the Hopewellian, used them for burial ceremonies or for burial purposes, these unique earthen features seem to have been used mostly for astronomical observations and as a prehistoric calendar.

Although much has been learned about the mounds and the people who built and used them, many questions remain unanswered. What happened to the Adena and Hopewell people? Why did they disappear? Although many theories abound, one is the answers.

In the early 19th century, a family of German immigrants, the Bronnenbergs, purchased twenty acres of land. Owning more than 600 acres, they operated a large farm, with their fields and pastures located in the present-day picnic areas. The Bronnenbergs were known to be lovers of fine horses and would hold races on what is today Mounds Road. One of the sons, Frederick Bronnenberg Jr., built a two-story brick farmhouse that stands to this day. Constructed in the 1840s, virtually every bit of the house came from the surrounding area. For instance, the four-inch-thick limestone quarried from nearby White River, the bricks were handmade on site, and most of the woodwork was tulipwood. In 1897, some of the Bronnenberg land was leased to the Indiana Union Traction Company, which operated an amusement park in the southern end of the property. Attractions included a roller coaster, roller skating rink, shooting gallery, carousel, boat rides on the river, and a pavilion with a restaurant on the first floor and a dance hall on the second. Many dance marathons of the “Roaring ’20s” were held there. But when the Great Depression began, this business, like so many others, simply failed. The Madison County Historical Society then purchased the property and donated it to the state of Indiana. Mounds Park became Mounds State Park in October 1930.

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- Summit Lake State Park-boat, boat ramps, fishing, hiking trails, seasonal interpretive service, picnicking, playgrounds, area, boat rental, shelter house, swimming beach, youth tent areas, wildlife watching
- Fort Harrison State Park-Dog park, recreation buildings, interpretive services & center, picnic area, hiking trails, multi-use trails, fishing, horseback riding, Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone. Call: (1-866-622-6746) 
  Online: camp.IN.gov
- Wilbur Wright Fish and Wildlife Area-boat training areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching

Please pick up a Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

FAMILY CAMPING—The campground is full of fun-filled activities for all ages. A family campground (Trails 1-6) is open May 1 through October 31. Each site provides a picnic table and grill. All campites are Electric sites. A dumping station is also available. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Firewood for sale seasonally. Reservations are available through the Central Reservations System.

YOUTH TENT AREA—Interpretive camping for church and other youth groups, scout troops, etc., under adult supervision. Equipped with water and vault toilets. Reservations are available through the Central Reservations System.

FISHING—River—bass, bluegill, catfish, and more. State fishing licenses required and may be purchased online at IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov.

HIKING—Six miles of easy-to-rugged hiking on the park’s six trails.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—A variety of activities are offered for the entire family year-round. Available by reservation for church, scout, and other civic groups at the Visitors Center, park office or gatehouse. Program schedules are available at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or by calling (765) 649-8128.

PICNIC AREA—Tables, grills, restroom facilities, tumbler-style playground equipment and open playfields are available.

SHELTER HOUSES—Three available year-round the shelter house is a great place to rest, 1st-serve, or shelter houses may be reserved/rented for specific dates on reservation available April-December and must be reserved/rented for use. Includes chairs, tables, kitchen facilities, fireplace, restroom. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

VISITORS CENTER—Open year-round; includes property office, interpretive center, wildlife viewing mound and modern restrooms. The Interpretive Center includes live animals, interactive exhibits for children and adults, display of Great Mound area and much more.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not damage or change any structure, rock, tree, fishing, bird, or wildlife while inside the park. Do NOT damage any trees, brush, or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural home.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO 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.
- 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 and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or for the purposes of that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Dog parks are Electric sites. A dumping station is also available.
- Fireparks are Electric sites. A dumping station is also available.
- Pets are Electric sites. A dumping station is also available.

This is your park

Visitors shall observe the rules, which are designed to fulfill the purposes, these unique earthen features seem to have been used primarily for a prehistoric calendar. In order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding wildlife will disrupt the natural behavior of animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on human food 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.

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

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM

Reservations for all types of camping, family and individual campsites, and forested campsites in Indiana State Park recreation areas, plus Kentucky State Parks, recreation areas, and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

1-866-622-6746
Online: camp.IN.gov
Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated campsites can be made online or by phone.

1-877-lodges1 (877-563-4371)
Online: IndianaInns.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Mounds State Park
4306 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46017

Call: (765) 642-6627

Online: on.in.dnr/mounds

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.

As the name suggests, Mounds State Park contains and preserves some of the finest examples of earthwork and mound building in Indiana. Built by the Adena and Hopewell cultures around 1600 B.C., the 10 mounds and earthworks within park boundaries range in size from a few feet high to several feet high. These mounds were used primarily for ceremony, celebration, and observation of solstices, equinoxes and stellar events. Research indicates that these mounds were used for ceremonial purposes, hunting, and as a place of worship for the people of more than 100 of the brightest stars, as well as those of the moon and visible planets. The largest and best preserved of the park’s mounds is the “Great Mound,” easily accessed by Trail 1. Technically referred to as a “circular enclosure,” this earthwork is the largest of its kind in the state, and is nearly a quarter-mile in circular layout. Among the first inhabitants of this area were the Adena, who dated to 1,000 B.C., and were primarily a hunter/gatherer society. They left their mark by the construction

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION DISTANCE DIFFICULTY

Trail 1: 1 mile Easy
You will find the 20 most common trees in Indiana marked for your convenience along this trail. This trail also winds around four prehistoric mounds, one is the Great Mound, the focal point of the park. A tree guide and mounds history guide can be obtained at the Visitors Center.

Trail 2: 5 miles Rugger
The trail descends into the woods from the first two parking lots on the left side of the road in the picnic area. It winds through the forest, providing views of different species of birds and animals. It intersects with Trail 5 and skirts the backside of the pavement.

Trail 3: .9 miles Moderate
The trail descends into the woods from the first two parking lots on the left side of the road in the picnic area. It winds through the forest, providing views of different species of birds and animals. It intersects with Trail 5 and skirts the backside of the pavement.

Trail 4: 7 miles Rugger
Begins from the back parking lot at the pool. This trail is suitable for mountain bikes because of the rugged terrain and steep hills. It can be traveled to and from the campground via a long boardwalk, which descends into a ravine with a creek and then climbs up the bluff. It provides a scenic overlook with all types of wildlife and many feathered friends. It intersects Trail 5 three times.

Trail 5: 2.5 miles Moderate
Begins at the main gate and skirts the boundary of the park. It provides a scenic view as it follows along the White River and the limestone bluffs. One might catch glimpses of different types of waterfowl and aquatic life. It crosses several creeks and goes on into the woods, where songbirds and upland game make their home. This is a great trail for spring wildflower enthusiasts and fans of the majestic hardwood trees that populate the forest. It is the longest and most popular trail in the park.

Trail 6: 4 miles Moderate
Begins at the campground control station and leads to either the campground or the “circuit” trail layout. This trail is great for campers who want to fish or purchase items from the camp store. It’s a great trail for a short hike and enjoying the outdoors.

Plest the on MAIRED TRAILS. BICYCLE IS PROHIBITED ON TRAILS.