

Department of Conservation, now the Department of Natural Resources, bought the first parcels of land for a state forest in 1932. The area became popular through the work of the 517th Co. Civilian Conservation Corps beginning in 1934. These men planted many of the trees near the park entrance and throughout the forest. They built facilities, including shelter house 2, the property manager's residence, the service area and numerous retaining walls. The 517th camp, which hosted one of Indiana's few African-American CCC companies, sat where the group camp is located today.

The property name was changed in 2004 to honor the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon and his family for their contributions to this community and to the area's natural resources and history. The 2,294 acre site was established in 1980 in a peaceful and secluded setting, with the 24,000 acre Harrison-Crawford State Forest. It was operated by the Indiana DNR's Division of Forestry. The state forest, one of Indiana's largest, serves as a source of timber and a place for canoeing, hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, swimming and other outdoor recreation.

With the development of this state park, we continue to offer high-quality activities and facilities for both new and returning visitors. Guests can enjoy a wide range of activities and facilities as described in an adjacent column of this brochure. Hunting, in compliance with established seasons, continues to be permitted in Harrison-Crawford State Forest, but not inside the state park.

Interpretive naturalists offer year-round hikes, talks and other programs for visitors and groups. The Nature Center offers resource and cultural displays, live snakes and turtles, bird viewing, an outdoor wetlands pond and living-history demonstrations at a pioneer farmstead. Also featured is a one-of-a-kind, restored, historically accurate, 1850s hay press and barn with accompanying exhibits.

This combination of a state park surrounded by a vast, working state forest provides a unique opportunity for viewing multiple-use management of natural and cultural resources. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the wild diversity, long history and rugged beauty of southern Indiana at O'Bannon Woods State Park.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe property 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.

Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding wildlife 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

ACCESS SITES—Four public-access sites are available in the area. The Lock and Dam 44 access site at the mouth of the Blue River provides a concrete ramp for access to the Ohio River.

CANOEING—Eleven miles of Blue River downstream from S.R. 462 bridge are available for canoeing, tubing and boating.

CAMPING—The modern electric campground with 234 reservable sites is equipped with modern restrooms, hot water and showers. There are an additional 36 electric sites with modern facilities reservable for horse camping only. Fresh water fill-up available throughout the modern campground, along with 50-amp service and 45-foot pad. A 50-site, reservable, non-electric horse camp is available with a modern restroom, hot water and showers. Stage Stop primitive campground and youth rally camp, with 50 sites, is non-reservable. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

GROUP CAMP—100 person capacity with dining and recreation hall, bunkhouses and shower house. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING—At fishing pond and Blue River access sites.

HIKING—18 miles of short day-use trails provide access to the Adventure Trail, a 25.5 mile backpacking trail through Harrison-Crawford State Forest.

HORSE TRAILS—The horse trail system includes 80 miles of marked loop trails through Harrison-Crawford State Forest.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Open year-round. Program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or (812) 738-8234.

NATURE CENTER—Hickory Hollow Nature Center, authentic 1850s hay press, 1830s farmstead. Hours vary.

PICNIC AREAS—Tables, grills, toilet facilities.

SHELTERS—Nine shelters. Three shelters are reservable through the Central Reservation System.

SWIMMING—Family Aquatics Center. Open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

WYANDOTTE CAVES—Open Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. Reservations available. Call (812) 738-8232 for information.

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.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups are permitted in the family campground.
- 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.
- 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.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m., except to anglers and to campers at their site.

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

DESCRIPTIONS OF TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
AA-Fire Tower to Rocky Ridge Bike & Hike	8 miles	Moderate to Rugged

Begins at the fire tower and travels west, intersecting with the Rocky Ridge Trail in the Class A campground. Follow paved road to the Group Camp to reconnect with the trail, then turn north passing the Aquatic Center before returning to the fire tower.

A-Rocky Ridge Bike & Hike	2 miles	Moderate
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Begins and ends near campsite 35. This loop trail passes through deep ravines and up scenic, rocky slopes. Parking and water are available at the campground.

B-Tulip Valley	2 miles	Moderate
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Begins across from the Group Camp, passes through the woods in front of Hickory Hollow Nature Center, and continues up the ridge to the campground. One mile of this trail is universally accessible from the Nature Center.

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: O'Bannon Woods State Park
7234 Old Forest Road SW
Corydon, IN 47112
Call: 812-738-8232
Fax: 812-738-8255
Nature Center: 812-738-8234
Online: on.IN.gov/obannonwoodssp

SPECIAL NOTE

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

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- **Patoka Lake**—archery range, boating, boat rental, boat launch, water skiing, bike trails, camping, fishing, ice fishing, fishing pier, hiking trails, hunting, trapping, picnicking, shelter house, swimming beach, interpretive center, interpretive services, wildlife viewing, bird watching, playground, shelter house
- **Harrison-Crawford State Forest**—bridle trails, hiking trails, wildlife viewing, fishing, ice fishing, hunting, trapping, boat launch

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.



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

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

OUTDOOR INDIANA 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.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
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C-CCC Ghost	1.25 miles	Rugged
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This trail begins and ends at the Group Camp and follows both sides of a dry creek bed. Be prepared for long, steep climbs and rocky descents. Parking is available at the Group Camp.

D-Cliff Dweller	1.75 miles	Moderate
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This loop trail crosses a dry creek bed, follows a beautiful, spring-fed creek and has some long stretches of climbing. Parking is available at the Pioneer Shelter House.

E-Ohio River Bluff	1.5 miles	Rugged
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This loop trail captures vistas of what the early settlers saw while traveling down the Ohio River. Follow the rocky escarpment bluff, as it meanders down to the horse trail from Shelter House 2 and back to the lower parking lot. It then skirts under the edge of the bluff and up the rock staircase, built by the CCC, back to the shelter.

F-Post-Oak Cedar Nature Preserve	.8 miles	Rugged
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This trail is on Cold Friday Road, 1.5 miles south of the main property office. The Division of Nature Preserves requests that you register at the trailhead before entering the nature preserve.

G-Sharp Spring Trail	1 mile	Moderate
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This trail loops around the perimeter of Wyandotte Wetlands and passes Sharp's Spring on the lake's backside. The parking lot shelter provides a beautiful spot for a picnic.

BR-Breeden Ridge Bike & Hike	1.5 miles	Rugged
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Begins at intersection of Rocky Ridge with a hand-built rock garden. A rolling climb takes you to the top of Breeden Ridge. A log jump sends you toward a small woodland pond, the highest point on the trail. Twisting turns and other features lead to a horse trail crossing, where the trail descends to Potato Run. After a climb up the other side of the creek, the trail levels out and joins the Potato Run Trail.

PR-Potato Run Bike & Hike	1.2 miles	Moderate
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Begins at the campground, sharing access with the Tulip Valley hiking trail. At Battleship Rock, the trail splits to the right and flows along the ridge behind the campground before descending into the valley. Bikers should yield to horses at two horse crossings. The trail intersects with the Breeden Ridge Trail, then twists and winds along the edge of Potato Creek before crossing the creek bed.

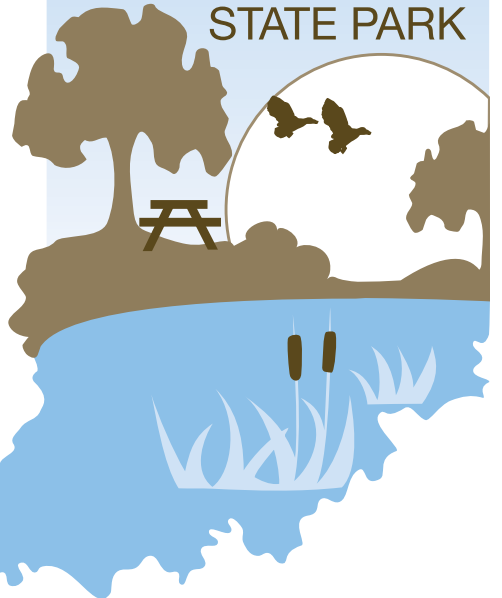
PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

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

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

O'BANNON WOODS STATE PARK



Nestled among the hills, rivers, and forests of extreme south central Indiana, O'Bannon Woods State Park is rich with resources dating back to prehistoric Native Americans. The stories of the region's history live on in the facilities and natural features of the park, which was formerly known as Wyandotte Woods State Recreation Area.

Native Americans mined the valuable blueish-grey Harrison County chert or flint from caves and fields for thousands of years to make spearpoints, knives, arrowheads and other tools.

Pioneer settlers traveled through the Ohio valley in the early 1800s to establish towns, businesses and early trading with riverboats coming up the Ohio River. A local button factory, lime kilns and haypress barns were sources for river-related income during the mid-to-late 1800s. Even today, visitors find stone foundations, cemeteries and historical structures scattered among the hillsides.

By the early 1900s, much of the area had been overfarmed and was bare of trees. The

on.IN.gov/stateparks