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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2017



This snapshot shares some of the work Indiana State Parks has done and will be doing to prepare for your visits in 2017. There are many other small projects and events not listed that also help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.

Improvements include new construction and infrastructure along with some projects to enhance campgrounds, restrooms and trails. Collectively, Indiana State Park properties have more than 2,000 buildings, 700 miles of trails, 636 hotel/lodge rooms, 17 marinas, 75 launching ramps, 17 swimming pools, 15 beaches, 7,701 campsites, more than 200 shelters, 160 or so playgrounds and 150 cabins. That's a lot of maintenance, and much time is focused on basic facility care.

Memories made naturally.

Indiana State Parks has wonderful partners and volunteers who help with projects. Friends groups contributed thousands of dollars and hours for projects and events. Creative and dedicated employees stretch the money that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

Indiana State Parks celebrated its centennial in 2016. More than 2 million people engaged with more than 800 projects, events and initiatives during the year. By the end of summer 2017, each property will have a permanent centennial space to commemorate a century of great parks.

State park inns have been replacing all mattresses and bedding at the seven facilities, and that will be completed this summer. The mattresses were designed for us by Bowles Mattress Company.

The goal of Indiana State Parks is to provide you with a great experience on every visit—to help you and your family and friends make memories naturally. Your Indiana State Parks are a great value, both in cost and as great places to get healthy, relax, and support local communities through tourism and jobs. Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, wetlands and wildlife and slow down for a few days. Get outside with family and friends— you'll be glad you did.

See you on the trail in 2017!

Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park complex

- Whitewater Memorial cabin restrooms were renovated, and new sidewalks and lighting were installed for all cabins. Several have new flooring, furniture and exterior doors. All cabins were painted.
- Playgrounds in the campgrounds at Mounds and Quakertown SRAs at Brookville Lake and at Whitewater Memorial will all receive new rubber mulch under the play equipment in spring/early summer.
- A new 44-slip rental dock was installed at the Fairfield SRA Marina.
- Soccer goals and basketball goals are being installed at Whitewater Memorial and at Mounds SRA on Brookville.
- Two courtesy docks at Fairfield Ramp were rehabilitated.
- Gravel campsites at Whitewater Memorial are being paved.
- The comfort stations at Mounds SRA have new flooring. Two comfort stations got new partitions, drinking fountains, upgraded showers, ADA improvements and paint.
- The ADA fishing pier at the Whitewater Memorial beach was renovated and should be installed by Memorial Day.
- More than 300 dead and dying ash trees were removed from the Mounds campground. More than 270 new trees were planted and another 50 were transplanted.
- Whitewater Memorial has a new fire ring for gatherings and programs, and another is under construction near the Mounds SRA Campground Store.

Brown County State Park

- Parts of the family campground were upgraded from 30-amp to 50-amp to better accommodate RVs.
- Fourteen vault toilets were replaced in the family and horse campgrounds.
- Drainage was improved for the Ogle Lake spillway.
- New accessible restrooms are open at the nature center.
- Twelve new cabin suites are open for rental through Abe Martin Lodge.
- Park roads are being repaved.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)

- New shower partitions were installed in comfort stations in the Poplar Grove Campground.
- New doors were installed in Sunny Acres Campground comfort stations, the Hilltop Restroom and at the marina.
- Sunny Acres Campground has new picnic tables.
- Bumper guards were replaced on docks at the marina.
- A concessionaire is opening a new kayak rental at Cataract Falls SRA.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- Approximately 40 campsites were upgraded from 30-amp to 50-amp in Raccoon Run and Whitetail camping loops.
- Parts of the main sewer line through the campground were replaced or repaired.
- Two memorial benches were placed in memory of a long-time lake visitor.
- Several staircases and bridges affected by the 2015 flood were rebuilt on Trails 1 and 3.
- Three acres of rock pile fish habitat were installed in partnership with DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- A new, moderate 3.5-mile trail opens in June. Trail 12 begins and ends at the beach. It travels through glacial topography, hardwood forest and follows the ridgeline of a deep ravine with a meandering stream.
- Campground comfort station showers are being re-plumbed with new valves allowing users to control water flow and temperature.
- Campground roads were repaved.
- New solid white oak doors were fabricated for the Stanley one-room schoolhouse. They match the original entrance doors.
- New entrance doors were installed on three of the campground comfort stations.
- Two new donated outdoor ping pong tables and paddles will be available for use at the beach.

Clifty Falls State Park

- Equipment that controls air quality and humidity in the indoor pool at Clifty Inn was repaired.
- The "Clifty Clubhouse" play area is now open at Clifty Inn, and a trail will be built to the nature center.
- Showers were rehabbed in campground comfort stations 1 and 2. Campsite pads will get new stone this summer.
- A new bridge is in place over Hoffman Falls.
- Aging culverts throughout the property were replaced.
- Several acres of invasive honeysuckle and other species were removed around the inn and nature center, and more will be removed in 2017.

Charlestown State Park

- Picnic shelters and the gatehouse are being reroofed. Shelters have new picnic tables.
- New bulletin boards were installed throughout park.
- Playgrounds have been resurfaced. A new playground is being purchased for the campground.
- New benches were installed at the river overlooks.
- A lighting project will include a light at the park entrance, security lights in the campground overflow lot and lights at the Charlestown Landing Boat Ramp to help boaters find the ramp at night from the river.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- New bulletin boards were installed.
- New benches were installed for river viewing.
- Clean-up and restoration is underway on Woodland Loop Trail.
- The deck circling the interpretive center on the river side is being replaced.
- Interpretive signs on the center's deck are being replaced.
- Additions to the immersive, interactive exhibits are being planned, including exhibits for the River Room.

Fort Harrison State Park

- The "adventure" play area of the dog park, including a pond for swimming (dogs only) is now open to all dog park members.
- Contractors will remove hundreds of acres of invasive plants from Warbler Woods Nature Preserve this season.
- A new playground will soon be installed at the Cherry Tree Picnic Area to replace the existing play structure.
- Fort Harrison will again host the Ford Hoosier Experience; this year it is on June 4-5, instead of in September.

- Officer Home #507 was renovated and is open for reservations near The Garrison.
- Fort Harrison Inn now offers a continental breakfast for overnight guests.

Hardy Lake

- Shower stalls in campground comfort stations B & C were replaced and interiors were repainted.
- A new pollinator/butterfly garden was installed by the shelter house restroom.
- Several trees were planted in the electric campground and near the new pollinator garden.
- Culvert repairs and replacements were made inside the main recreation area.
- Shoreline erosion improvements are in progress at Alpha Ramp.
- The main gate and marina building were resided.

Harmonie State Park

- A new mini-camp store opened in the park office.
- Campground comfort stations have new touchless hand dryers and new baby changing stations.
- Campground playgrounds have new mulch.
- Big Oak Shelter has a new large grill patio, thanks to Eagle Scout Jacob Wiley.
- Bridge, boardwalk and trimming work began earlier in the year on all hiking trails and will continue throughout the summer.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- The ADA ramp for the Dunes Bird Observation Platform was completed.
- A new roof was installed on the nature center.
- Many campground structures got new paint.
- Improvements are being made on Trail 2 near the campground and along Dunes Creek.
- Design is complete for Trail 3 through the Dunes Nature Preserve that was affected by changing water levels. Park staff is now working on funding for repairs.

Mounds State Park

- Playgrounds in the campground and picnic area received new mulch.
- The gable ends of the campground comfort stations were resided.
- Two new water heaters with a mixing valve were installed in the campground comfort station.
- The road to the campground was repaved.
- A new water cooler with a sport bottle fill was installed at visitor center.

Lincoln State Park

- Fifty-seven sites in the campground were upgraded from 30- to 50-amp service.
- The campground got new sidewalks, new concrete work at the dump station and new trees. Fire rings on concrete pads are being installed.
- The men's shower at the beach was remodeled.
- The beach house is receiving a new roof.
- Dehumidifiers were installed in the cottages.
- The lighting system at the amphitheatre was updated for better production quality in the 2017 season.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- The new Centennial Shelter is complete and available for rent.
- An accessible sidewalk and restroom were installed for the Echo restroom (near the Centennial Shelter).
- All family cabins, the CCC Shelter and Trailside Shelter were reroofed.
- Kitchen and restroom improvements were made in the family cabins.
- Kitchen renovations were completed at Canyon Inn.

Mississinewa Lake

- Seventy new 50-amp pedestals were installed in the campground. Campground pads will be improved this summer.
- Transfer switches were installed at several locations to keep the reservation system live during power outages.
- Several campground comfort stations were improved with new doors, recoating showers or new sinks and faucets.
- A third lane is being added to the campground dump station. All lanes will have concrete, new plumbing, and hose reels.
- Road cuts were made in the campground for the installation of 19 new culverts to improve drainage.
- The campground lift station that moves sewage has had pumps rehabbed and a new screen system installed.

Monroe Lake

- Major improvements were made to the campground road in Paynetown SRA.
- Campground restrooms have new fixtures.

Ouabache State Park

- The north comfort station has a new epoxy floor, new fixtures, new paint and improved accessibility.
- An additional room is now available in the CCC Lodge for use when the space is rented.
- Drainage was improved on Trails 4 and 5. The trails were also widened and received new gravel in some areas.
- A new beach is under construction on Kunkel Lake.
- The friends group raised all funds needed for the firetower renovation. Work begins this summer.

O'Bannon Woods State Park/Wyandotte Caves

- Horsemen's Hideaway Campground received improvements.
- The group camp has reopened with renovated dorms, site and grade work and new kitchen. Two new industrial appliances were donated by the Church of the Latter Day Saints.
- Wyandotte Caves will be open for the full summer season from Memorial Day Weekend–Labor Day Weekend. Lighting and other improvements are underway.
- Improvements were made to the Adventure Hiking Trail and hike/bike trails by volunteers.

Patoka Lake

- Campground comfort station C2 was renovated, and new picnic tables, fire rings and a basketball goal are being installed.
- A new campground dump station is coming in late summer 2017.
- New paint and partitions will be installed in the beach house.
- The Fisherman's Campground was expanded and the backpack camping area improved.
- The nature center has a new video display and a new red-tailed hawk for programming.
- The property is working with the National Wild Turkey Federation to plant a variety of pollinator plants.

Prophetstown State Park

- The main entrance road was routed around the location of the future lake.
- The Circle of Stones was dedicated in 2016 to honor the native people who gathered at Prophets Town in the early 1800s.
- A 2.5-mile extension of the paved hike/bike trail is now open across beautiful prairie at the east end of the property.
- A new half-mile benched trail behind the Native American Village was completed as an Eagle Scout Project.

Pokagon State Park

- The small cabins in the group camp are being renovated.
- New LED lights, sinks, faucets, and hand dryers were installed in comfort stations 2 and 4.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps "Pocket" Museum is now open to visitors next to the gatehouse.
- The couches and furnishings in the Lonidaw Lounge at Potawatomi Inn were replaced.

Potato Creek State Park

- Security lighting was rehabbed, and 911 call boxes are replacing pay phones.
- New hickory floors were installed in the cabins.
- A water softener system was installed for facilities on the north side of the lake.
- New light fixtures are being installed in the campground comfort stations.
- A 2-acre wetland restoration was completed.
- The nature center has new bird viewing area benches and a better view of the lake after some clearing.

Salamonie Lake

- Trees were planted for shade on five sites in Apple Orchard Primitive.
- Lights and electrical outlets were installed in the Wildlife Pond Shelter House.
- A new, larger four-boat capacity courtesy dock was installed for Lost Bridge West Boat Ramp.
- The Tree Trail was re-routed and new stone was placed on the trail.
- The beach got 400 tons of new washed sand along with trees planted to replace those lost in the 2015 flood.
- New sinks, countertops and the conversion of comfort station 1 to ADA accessibility will soon be underway.

Shakamak State Park

- Eight full hook-up sites were installed and will be available for this season in the campground.
- A new dump station was added for the campground.
- Non-electric campsites are being leveled and stone is being added.

Spring Mill State Park

- Spring Mill Lake was dredged and is open for fishing (including rainbow trout) and non-motorized boats.
- Boat rentals for the lake will be available at the Lakeview Activity Center beginning Memorial Day Weekend.
- New "Giant Talon" bikes will be available for rent at the camp store this year.
- By late June, every room of the Spring Mill Inn will have newly refinished vanity tops.
- There are now Tesla (and one universal) charging stations in the Inn Parking Garage.
- The inn dining room floor will be replaced in early June.

Summit Lake State Park

- New courtesy docks were installed.
- The beach comfort station has new counters, sinks and mirrors.
- The men's beach showers now have individual partitions and new fixtures.
- The beach concession area was updated.
- All campground comfort stations will be re-roofed.

Tippicanoe River State Park

- A self-guided trail has been installed at the River Picnic Area.
- The campground playground near comfort station B was rehabbed.
- The Tepicon Hall kitchen was restored to the original wood walls and floor. A new accessible ramp was installed.
- A new sidewalk was installed to Overlook 2 at the River Picnic Area.
- New countertops were installed in campground comfort stations, and new landscaping is in place for comfort station A.
- The interior of the main gate house was renovated.

Turkey Run and Shades State Park complex

- Drainage was improved at Turkey Run Inn's parking lot.
- Trail 11 was extended; it includes a sidewalk to the Juliet Strauss Memorial and intersects with Trail 1 near Lieber Cabin.
- Shades and Turkey Run each have a new playground.
- The bird observation area at the Turkey Run nature center was renovated and a new gift shop was added.
- Campground improvements include the removal of 150 hazardous trees, installation of new safety surfacing at three playgrounds and new stone for the youth tent area roadway at Shades State Park.
- The indoor pool at Turkey Run Inn was repaired and the pool is back open.
- A new fence was installed around the Turkey Run saddle barn paddock area.
- New split-rail fencing was installed in several locations.
- Turkey Run's olympic-sized pool facility has a new roof and new paint inside and out.
- A major reroofing project is underway for shelters and comfort stations.

Versailles State Park

- Campground comfort stations are getting new faucets, exterior lighting and fixtures, and 30 new electrical pedestals will be installed in the modern campground.
- Nature center floors were refinished and a new fence was installed for the bird viewing area.
- New vault toilets were installed in the Horse Day Use Area, Horseman's Campground, and the Lower Picnic Area.
- Four miles of new mountain bike/hiking trail(s) were constructed on Hassmer Hill in the park.
- The horseman's campground has new hitching rails, manure bins, and 50-amp electrical service at each site.
- The pool has new lifeguard chairs, and new pool loungers, low dive and drop-in tube slide will be installed. New strainer baskets and butterfly valves were installed, and the pool will get a new coat of paint as well.