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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2021

Below is a snapshot of work we have completed to prepare for your visits this year. We have also completed many other projects that will help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.



Memories made naturally.

Indiana's 36 state park units now include Redbird, Interlake, Starve Hollow and Deam Lake state recreation areas (SRAs.)

We are focusing attention on completing a variety of deferred maintenance projects that have been funded through the Indiana General Assembly, filling full-time and seasonal staff positions, following our tradition of excellence in interpretation and our Service State Park Style initiative that focuses on exceeding your expectations as you visit.

We are in the third year of our five-year strategic plan. It focuses on caring for facilities, trails, and infrastructure; improving efforts to manage our natural resources and remove invasive species; investing in technology; looking at ways to be more environmentally responsible, and providing appropriate training and support for park staff. Learn more at IN.gov/dnr/state-parks/about-us/whats-new/second-century-survey-results.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers. They contribute thousands of dollars and labor hours for projects and events. Our creative and dedicated employees work diligently to stretch what you receive for the dollars you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite or inn room, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

Our goal is to provide you with a great experience during 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 with tourism and jobs.

As you spend time in a state park this year, please practice responsible recreation. Plan ahead and make sure family and friends know where you are going. Prepare well for your outdoor experiences with the proper clothing, footwear and insect repellent and bring plenty of water so you don't get dehydrated. Ensure that any pets that travel with you remain on a 6-foot leash at all times. And finally, take any trash home with you that you create in trails, picnic areas and beaches.

Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, wetlands, and wildlife, and slow down for a few hours or days. Get outside with family and friends. You'll be glad you did. See you soon!

Brookville Lake

- Accessible sites were added to the Quakertown SRA campground.
- A new ship store building and dock were added at Fairfield Marina.
- A new dock with 48 slips with water and electricity was installed at Hanna Creek Marina.
- The Mounds SRA office was remodeled so the public reception area is now on the lower level and is accessible.

Brown County State Park

- Complete renovation of the 54-room East Wing at the Abe Martin Lodge included new walls, flooring, windows, bathroom fixtures, furniture, and a new HVAC system bringing conditioned, fresh air into each room.
- Two significant stone structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s are being restored. These include the 500-foot long retaining wall and sidewalk along the parking lot for the Upper Shelter, and a 145-foot long stairway on hiking trail #2 near the Lower Shelter.
- New sewer lines are being installed to nine Rustic Cabins at the Abe Martin Lodge.
- The public swimming pool is undergoing renovation that includes the installation of a new filtration system, new main drains, new diving boards, and the resurfacing and painting of the concrete pool bottom.

- A restored historic state highway bridge has been erected near the park swimming pool that will eventually be part of the Salt Creek Trail, a paved, multi-use trail connecting Nashville with the park.
- The Seven Vista Challenge was established in partnership with Brown County Tourism to draw attention to the park's great vistas.
- Campgrounds received 130 new trees to replace shade trees lost due to invasive insects and disease.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract Falls SRAs)

- Three new vault toilets were installed in the Poplar Grove Electric Campground and one new vault toilet was installed at the activity field in Lieber SRA.
- The camp store in Lieber SRA has new paint, flooring and shelves, as well as new shirts and merchandise.
- The restoration work at Hilltop Shelter in Lieber SRA has been completed with new roofing, concrete, chimney and a working fireplace.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- New tankless water heaters were installed in Songbird and Raccoon Run campground loops.
- The walkway to Raccoon Shelter is being replaced with an accessible path.
- Dock floats and rub-rails were replaced on the east dock at the main ramp in Raccoon SRA.
- The swimming area has been expanded at the beach and old curbing has been removed.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- The "9 Lakes Paddle Challenge" was introduced to invite guests to "paddle the Chain" and enjoy the natural landscape from the unique vantage point of a canoe or kayak by traveling 5 miles across the park via nine connected kettle lakes.
- The extended Trail 4 will open to the public on National Trails Day with 3 new miles, making it into a 5 ½ mile loop. This trail passes by four lakes and through woods, swamps and deep ravines.
- Fiber optic cable was installed throughout the park to provide better service for our guests at fee collection stations.

Charlestown State Park

- The new Nature Nook is open in the park office with exhibits and an aquarium wall.
- New carpet, paint, and LED lighting were installed in the park office along with a large TV to showcase park events.
- New signage was installed at the gatehouse, along with electricity and dawn to dusk lighting for the park entrance sign.
- Gravel pad extensions for picnic tables were installed in the campground.
- Three sidewalks were replaced in the main picnic area.
- New more efficient exterior LED lighting was installed at the maintenance building.

Clifty Falls State Park

- New cedar shake roofs were installed on both of the historic gatehouses.
- New landscaping at Clifty Inn features only native species.
- A new water line and valves were installed for the restrooms at Big Clifty Falls and the north gatehouse.
- Four new trail structures were installed on Trail 7.
- Waterless urinals were installed in comfort stations and restrooms.
- The south canyon road was converted to one-way to improve traffic flow, parking, and emergency access.

Fort Harrison State Park

- A drinking fountain was installed at Shafter restroom including a bottle filling station and a refillable dog bowl.
- The Charters of Freedom exhibit outside The Garrison, featuring replicas of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights will be completed in June and dedicated in late summer.
- A new vault toilet was installed by the driving range at the golf course, replacing port-a-lets.

- Two honeysuckle removal projects have been completed in the Lawrence Creek Nature Preserve and around the Millennium Grove picnic area. Millennium Grove will be planted in native wildflowers this spring.
- The steps and curb at the front entrance of the Garrison building are being replaced with new stairs, handrails, and ADA compliant curbs.

Hardy Lake

- New culverts were installed along Hardy Lake Road leading into the park's entrance.
- New exhaust fans were installed in campground restrooms and beach shower house.
- The main gate and campground gate floors were repainted.
- Interior remodeling was completed at the park office.

Harmonie State Park

- Roofs were replaced on two family cabins.
- New toilets were installed in comfort stations 4 and 5
- Initial work is underway for construction of a new water treatment plant and the repair of dams in the park.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- The Trail 2 raised boardwalk and wetland observation area were completed and are open for hiking.
- The renovated and restored Pavilion ice cream shop and restaurant will be opening in June.
- The wildlife observation area at the nature center was redesigned with a new pond feature installed.
- An interpretive flower bed featuring native savanna species was installed in front of the nature center.
- Three new trail accessible ATV chairs are available for guest use, courtesy of the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Interlake State Recreation Area

- Six miles of water trail for use by canoes and kayaks were completed with portage routes and signage.
- Five pergolas were installed for resting and observation in scenic locations.
- Single track trails for dirt bikes, horses and hiking were trimmed and repaired, along with improved sustainability on dual track trails for multi-use, including 4-wheel drive vehicles.
- A two-acre off-road vehicle (ORV) youth training center is under development.
- The parking lot size at Bass Lake boat launch was increased by approximately one-half acre and 800 feet of bank fishing trail was established.
- Approximately 1,000 feet of fencing was replaced to improve aesthetics.

Lincoln State Park

- The main lift station that moves waste from comfort stations and restrooms was replaced.
- The front entrance gate was renovated.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- The park's group camps have new exterior siding. Heat and air conditioning have been added to the sleeping barracks.
- All 189 Class A campsites were upgraded to 50-amp service.
- Sidewalks were replaced at the nature center.
- Nine vault toilets throughout the park were replaced.

Mississinewa Lake

- A new fishing pier was installed in the mooring area at Miami SRA and the mooring area has new stone.

- All eight camper cabins have new floors and electricity and the front cabin parking areas were renovated.
- Infrastructure at our WWTP and Water Towers.
- The youth tent area in Miami SRA was relocated and reseeded.
- Canoe rentals are now available at the Miami SRA beach house.

Monroe Lake

- Several campsites have been leveled and re-graveled.
- Hazardous trees were removed from state recreation areas.
- Invasive plants, including autumn olive, have been removed from several areas of the property.

Mounds State Park

- A new paved trail was installed to the Great Mound, improving accessibility.
- A new floor was installed in the rentable pavilion building.
- Improvements were made to the women's side of the campground comfort station.
- Gravel and new signage have improved some trails.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- New sinks and faucets were installed in comfort stations.
- Over 80 stumps were removed with a stump grinder from the Class A Campground.
- New potable water hydrant was installed in the Class A Campground.
- A new turtle exhibit is in place at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center.
- Improvements were made to picnic areas at Shelter House #2 and the Ohio River.

Ouabache State Park

- New high speed internet was installed on the property to improve connectivity and customer service at gates and the park office.
- The bike trail was repaved and a 100-yard section was raised to reduce flooding.
- Wooden gates were replaced with new bollards that allow easier access for recumbent bicycles.
- Campground B and the Trails End Shelter parking lot were paved.
- The CCC camp 1592 replica, made by Friends of Ouabache member Alan Daugherty, is on display in park office.
- Purple Martin houses donated by the Friends of Ouabache were installed near Kunkel Lake.

Patoka Lake

- Patoka Lake and Division of Fish and Wildlife fisheries staff continue working on improvements to fish habitat in the lake.
- Several acres of invasive species were removed to improve habitat for upland habitat for wildlife.
- A new sidewalk was installed and the dock was rehabbed at South Lick Fork SRA.
- The main dock at the South Ramp in Newton-Stewart SRA now has new floats, new decking and new bumpers.

Pokagon State Park

- New sidewalks, doors, and exterior siding were installed at the nature center.
- New windows and entrance doors were installed at the park office.
- New vault toilets are in place in the Apple Orchard Picnic Area and at the Potawatomi Inn Boat Rental.

- The first phase of the Trail 2 boardwalk steps for erosion control is complete.

Potato Creek State Park

- New curtains were made and installed in the cabins.
- New HVAC units were installed at the park office and camp store.
- Several memorial benches were added along trails.
- The water heater was replaced in the Loop C comfort station
- The stairs on Steamboat Hill were improved and hiking trails were clearly marked.

Prophetstown State Park

- A new water crossing was added to Trail 4 as the result of an Eagle Scout project.
- Water slides at the aquatic center were repainted.
- Over 200 native oak and hickory trees were planted in open oak woodlot corridors thanks to a grant from Duke Energy through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.
- Undesirable invasive plants and trees were removed on Trails 1, 2, and 3 and around the campground to make way for prairie and open oak woodlot restoration.
- Native grass and wildflower plantings continue to restore prairie habitat.

Redbird State Recreation Area

- Seven miles of dual track trail (multi-use including 4WD vehicles) were repaired for sustainability.
- Two and a half miles of new advanced single track trail was established, signed, and opened, and five miles of single track trail was trimmed and repaired.
- Two miles of erosion control features were placed to mitigate trail damage by ground water seepage.
- 1,000 feet of fencing was replaced.

Salamonie Lake

- New ADA sidewalks were installed at the marina, along with a handrail at the marina steps.
- A new frost-free water fill hydrant was installed near campsites on the point.
- Two new hunter check-in station boxes were installed in new locations.
- Around 25 acres of early successional wildlife habitat was restored in several wildlife management units.
- A specialty wheelchair was obtained for guests with mobility issues for use on trails near the interpretive center.

Shakamak State Park

- Eleven new 50-amp campsites are open in the campground.
- A new dock was installed in the cabin area and two new fishing docks were placed on Lake Lenape.
- New docks were installed at the boat ramps on Lake Lenape and Lake Shakamak.
- The historic brick entrance wall was restored.
- The pool has a new tube slide and new concrete on the deck.

Spring Mill State Park

- A new playground was installed in the Donaldson field, provided through a grant written by the Friends of Spring Mill State Park. A new playground was also installed in the campground.

- An iPad now provides a visual tour of the second and third floors of the exhibits in the Pioneer Village's gristmill for those who are unable to climb stairs in this historic structure. Funding was provided through the Friends of Spring Mill State Park with a grant from the Lawrence County Community Foundation.
- Improvements were made to the hands-on exhibits in the Gus Grissom Memorial to ensure that they are all operational.

Starve Hollow State Recreation Area

- The campground comfort stations have new floors, hand dryers, and energy-efficient LED lights.
- New mulch was added to all playgrounds.
- The Forest Education Center was repainted and displays were updated.
- A new disposal was placed in the fish cleaning station.

Summit Lake State Park

- New flooring was installed in campground comfort stations.
- A project to remove invasives and replace with native species is underway from the Sunset Shelter to the South Ramp road.
- The boat rental has an expanded fleet of rental boats and a new safety gear shed.

Tippecanoe State Park

- The new Otter Bend Area is open with a canoe launch, picnic area, horse hitching rail, interpretive sign, gazebo, and beautiful views of the Tippecanoe River.
- The park entrance and loop roads were resurfaced, totaling nearly 4 miles of roadway.
- The four historic walls at the entrance of the park were restored. This restoration work included cleaning, replacing over 200 stones, and remortaring all joints.
- A new overlook was installed at the Waterfowl Area with assistance from the Tippecanoe River State Park Friends Group.
- An interpretive sign was installed at Tepicon Recreation Hall highlighting the WPA and the two group camps that were located at Tippecanoe River State Park.

Turkey Run State Park and Shades State Park

- The tennis court shelter was remodeled to include a new roof, new LED lighting, repaired siding, and painting.
- The exterior of the modern restroom at the tennis court was remodeled.
- New sidewalks were installed for the nature center.
- Invasive plant removal continues along roadways and in the Pine Hills Nature Preserve.
- Turkey Run Inn's family cabin and five cabin complexes were remodeled. In addition, the third floor suites were remodeled.

Versailles State Park

- The Bradt Natural Area observation deck is open for hikers to enjoy.
- The Versailles Group Camp mess hall floor was replaced.
- The pool filter was replaced.
- The Otter Trail is now open for hikers to use.

Whitewater Memorial State Park

- New ADA sidewalks were installed to all restroom facilities at the modern campground.

- The campstore was remodeled.

