

# What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2024

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

We continue to focus 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 program that focuses on exceeding your expectations as you visit. This year, we add an emphasis on inviting and welcoming everyone to enjoy Indiana State Parks and all other DNR properties through the [Unity Blaze initiative](#).

We have wonderful partners and volunteers. They contribute thousands of dollars and hours of service for projects and events. And 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. Indiana State Parks provide a great value, both in cost and as 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. 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. When camping, be considerate of your neighbors and leave your site better than you found it. And finally, take any trash home with you that you create when visiting trails, picnic areas, and beaches.

We can't forget as well that the Next Level Trails program is managed by the Community Grants and Trails section of our division, and this funding has supported connections between communities and to parks in cities, counties and along greenways. The program recently celebrated the completion of 100 miles of trails across the state, with much more to come.

Get outside with family and friends or on your own and wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, and wetlands. Enjoy watching wildlife. Slow down for a few hours or days. You'll be glad you did. We'll see you soon.

## Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex

- New vault toilets will be installed at the Garr Hill and Fairfield boat ramps and at Fairfield Marina by July 1.
- A new 3D archery range was added at Quakertown SRA.
- The Indiana Trail Riders Association installed new stone around the hitching rails at Whitewater Memorial State Park's horse camp.

## Brown County State Park

- Seven family cabins and nine rustic cabins at Abe Martin Lodge were remodeled.
- The new pickle ball courts (replacing the tennis courts) will be finished in July.
- A new bike repair station is being installed in the lower lot.
- A repair project at Strahl Lake Dam and spillway is underway.
- Brown County State Park is now connected to municipal water from the town of Nashville.

### **Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)**

- A new Indigenous Peoples display was added at the nature center.
- Gravel edging work has been completed around campsites.
- The new 1-mile Trout Lily Trail, beginning at the camp gate and ending at the pool, is under construction.
- A new marina concessionaire with a boat rental will be available for guests.

### **Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)**

- A new fish grinder has been installed at the fish cleaning station.
- Firewood storage bins are now available at each gatehouse.
- Beach house renovation includes cement board front siding, new roof, and paint on the entire facility.
- Major trail renovations are completed, including replacement bridges on trails 1, 3 and 4.
- New targets and netting have been installed on the archery trail.
- Five memorial benches were installed and dedicated, including one for the property's first manager (1960-1968).

### **Chain O'Lakes State Park**

- An all-terrain track wheelchair was donated to the park for guests to use on designated park trails.
- A new trail bridge was added at the canoe camp on Trail 4.
- The cartop canoe/kayak parking lot was improved and expanded on the northwest side of Sand Lake.
- A new EZ Dock with a kayak launch was installed at the boat rental.
- Twenty new double kayaks were added to the boat rental fleet.

### **Charlestown State Park**

- Invasive species removal and habitat restoration work was done along the Ohio River and on Trail 6.
- Invasive species removal work was also completed in campground.
- Gravel pad extensions on campsites were added in the Paw Paw and Mulberry campground loops.

### **Clifty Falls State Park**

- Confidence maps were installed on trails throughout the park that include a "you are here" icon for wayfinding.
- Fourteen new trees were planted in the campground using funds from the Happy Little Trees 5K donations.
- A new chimney swift roosting tower and interpretive sign have been added at Poplar Grove picnic area.
- Two new color-blind viewers were installed at Lookout Point. One viewer is wheelchair friendly.
- Three invasive species removal contracts are making an impact at the nature center and at Poplar Grove.

### **Deam Lake SRA**

- New vault toilets were installed at the beach, boat ramp, day-use area, and campground.
- Six new single-person kayaks and two tandem (two-person) kayaks were added to the boat rental fleet.
- The park office now has a gift shop selling shirts, mugs, stickers, magnets, kids toys, nature guides, and more.
- Invasive species removal occurred throughout the property thanks to volunteer efforts.

### **Falls of the Ohio State Park**

- A new accessible outdoor classroom was built in partnership with the Falls of the Ohio Foundation.
- A new HVAC system was installed at the interpretive center.
- The initial conceptual plan for development of the Clark Site (Point of Rocks) was completed.

### **Fort Harrison State Park**

- Roofs were replaced at the Fort Harrison Inn and Fort Harrison State Park visitor center.
- The picnic shelter at Cherry Tree is undergoing renovation.
- Invasives removal is ongoing in the Lawrence Creek area.
- The Garrison's first floor restrooms are being remodeled.
- Improved directional signage was added on several park trails.

### **Hardy Lake**

- The campground lift station has been overhauled, and the beach lift station will be overhauled by mid-summer.
- A new gift shop nook was created at the park office.
- Several hazard trees were removed during winter.

### **Harmonie State Park**

- A fresh coat of paint was added to comfort stations in the campground.
- A new fountain was installed in the small pond near the campground gate.
- Campsite numbers have been newly painted.
- A new campground lift station has been added.

### **Indiana Dunes State Park**

- A new exhibit will open at the nature center in June 2024 featuring Indigenous food ways and fishing techniques on Lake Michigan at the Indiana Dunes.
- Invasives removal and habitat restoration were completed on 8 acres of savanna habitat near Trail 10.
- The nature center will have a new outdoor patio garden with native plants, serviceberry trees and new stairs.
- A new campsite for the volunteer campground host was installed in the east campground loop.

### **Interlake OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)**

- Retail space at the office was expanded with new merchandise.
- A new mudding suspension testing area was added.
- A new ATV and gators were added to assist staff with trail work.
- A mounting block for horseback riders was donated.

### **Lincoln State Park**

- Siding was replaced at the campground gatehouse.
- The Lincoln Amphitheatre parking lot was improved and expanded.
- New interpretive signage was added at Weber Lake.

### **McCormick's Creek State Park**

- The Echo Canyon Trail will open early summer with an accessible path and overlook of the falls and canyon.
- Trail 4 was rerouted and improved.
- A salvage sale removed thousands of trees from the campground that were damaged in the March 31, 2023, tornado.
- Family cabins damaged in the tornado were repaired and reopened.
- Trails 2 and 3 will reopen Memorial Day Weekend after significant clearing from tornado damage. The bridle trail will be opened for hiking, too, for this season only.

### **Mississinewa Lake**

- An ADA access fishing lane was added at the beach cove in Miami SRA.
- The Miami SRA Boat Ramp ramp, curbing, drainage and sidewalks have been replaced.
- The Moswa and Shepoconah trails in Miami SRA were connected by the addition of a quarter mile of trail.
- Two additional waterfowl wetlands were added as a part of the Liston Creek complex.

### **Monroe Lake**

- A new comfort station was installed at Paynetown SRA's campground.
- Four new vault toilets were installed. They are at Cutright SRA, the Paynetown SRA primitive camping loop, Crooked Creek boat ramp, and the modern campground.
- Improvements were made to the Paynetown SRA campground dump station.

### **Mounds State Park**

- The men's side of the campground comfort station was renovated.
- The Mounds Pavilion is getting an upgrade that includes HVAC.
- Several interpretive exhibits are being updated in the visitor center.

### **O'Bannon Woods State Park**

- Two new juvenile hellbenders are now on display at the nature center.
- Concrete manure bins were installed in the primitive horse campground.
- A fresh coat of paint was added to the Class A campground comfort station B.
- A new slide was installed on the Class A campground playground.
- Autumn olive removal was completed at the group camp and Sharp's Cemetery.
- The corral was extended at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center for the growing oxen, Carter and Cash.

### **Ouabache State Park**

- A new monitor was added at the gatehouse for sharing park information.
- Invasive plant removal was completed throughout the park.
- Four single kayaks and a double kayak were added to the rental fleet of paddle boats, row boats, and canoes.

### **Patoka Lake**

- The Osbourne Boat Ramp has a newly rehabilitated courtesy dock.
- New interpretive signage was added along the bike trail.
- New interpretive displays were installed in the nature center.
- Lighting was improved in the fish cleaning stations.
- Field openings were added throughout the property for increased wildlife viewing.

### **Pokagon State Park**

- A new boat house was installed on Lake James below Potawatomi Inn.
- New paddle boats, tandem kayaks, single kayaks, fishing boats, paddle boards and pontoons were added to the boat rental fleet.
- New men's and woman's showers were installed in campground #1.

### **Potato Creek State Park**

- Initial clearing has begun for building of the Lodge at Potato Creek State Park.
- Several new displays were installed in the nature center, and wayside signage in the park was refreshed.
- The dump stations and water fill stations at both horse and family campgrounds were expanded.

- The upgrade and connection of the sanitary and water infrastructure to North Liberty is underway.
- A kayak launch was added at the west boat launch.

### **Prophetstown State Park**

- Staff replaced wooden borders at several sites in the campground.
- Native grasses and wildflowers were planted for habitat restoration and landscape beautification.
- The Farm at Prophetstown restored the historic Gambrel barn with new siding, doors, windows, and fresh paint.
- The Farm now has a golf cart so visitors with mobility issues can enjoy the site, and The Farm also acquired a restored 1926 Model-T.
- The council house in the village prairie was removed. Logs were saved to create bench seating for guests.
- A portable restroom was placed near the basketball court for guest use through November.

### **Redbird OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)**

- Pocket challenges for riders continue to be added, with the most recent now found on Trail 3.
- Power line poles on top of powerline hill were replaced by Hoosier Energy.

### **Salamonie Lake**

- Sixteen holes were added to the existing nine-hole disc golf course.
- A new fishing pier was added at the beach.
- Four small campsites were converted to two pull-through sites to improve flow and lessen traffic congestion.
- Five acres of wetland in Wildlife Management Unit 25 were constructed for improved waterfowl hunting.
- Millings were added to wildlife management area parking areas and roads for accessibility.
- Four additional backpacking campsites were installed on the Bloodroot Trail.

### **Shades State Park**

- Multiple trail structures have been rehabilitated.
- Ten acres of habitat were improved for pollinators.
- A campground host site was developed.
- The siding and roofing material at the camp store was replaced.

### **Shakamak State Park**

- The camp store interior was redesigned.
- New food items for pool concession stand will be coming this 2024 pool season.
- New water hookups were installed between sites 401 and 411 in the modern campground.
- The campground fishing pier was repaired.

### **Spring Mill State Park**

- A new fishing pier was installed at the Lakeview Activity Center.
- New displays will be installed in the Lakeview Activity Center in June.
- Work continues on the renovation of Spring Mill Inn, with opening expected during the latter part of 2024.

### **Starve Hollow SRA**

- The boat dock was resurfaced, and new floats for the fishing pier are being added.
- New kayaks, canoes, double kayaks, and a paddle board have been added to the boat rental fleet.
- New heaters and air-conditioning units will be installed in some of the cabins in late summer. The cabins will also receive a fresh coat of paint. Some cabin fans have been switched out.
- Accessible parking will be added near the playground by the cabins.

- An elevated boardwalk will be installed from the overflow parking lot into the electric campground over a wetland. The boardwalk will offer great wildlife viewing opportunities when it is completed in early fall.

#### **Summit Lake State Park**

- A new 2-mile Kayak Trail Challenge will be completed and available soon.
- A new kayak launch was installed at the north ramp.
- A family-friendly story walk about eagles and other Summit Lake wildlife was installed on accessible Trail 3.

#### **Tippecanoe River State Park**

- Savanna restoration work continues near River Tent Campground and the Day Use Horse Area.
- New vault toilets were installed at the River Tent Campground and Day Use Horse Area.
- A new accessible picnic area was added at the Otter Bend picnic area.
- A new accessible walkway was installed to access the waterfowl observation area.
- New steps and platforms were installed at the fire tower.

#### **Turkey Run State Park**

- Multiple trail structures were repaired, and a new 1.5-mile trail (Trail 12) will open by mid-summer.
- Roadways located on the west side of our campground have been repaved.
- A new vault toilet was installed at the Lusk home.
- The public Olympic-size pool has a new pool liner, and improvements were made to the pool mechanical room.
- New sidewalk lighting was installed around the cabins at Turkey Run Inn.
- New pool ladders and new dining room patio furniture and décor were added at Turkey Run Inn.
- A new sewage treatment facility was installed for the cabin at Covered Bridge Retreat.

#### **Versailles State Park**

- The nature center turtle display was upgraded.
- Three new pollinator fields were planted totaling 6 acres. One is near the park office, and two are near the dam.
- A new hiking trail (1.5 miles) will open in July that connects from Trail 1.
- The 84 steps to the top of the dam were repaired, making for a safer and easier climb to view the lake.