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What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2026**



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

We continue to focus on completing a variety of maintenance projects that have been funded through the Indiana General Assembly. We are also 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 have wonderful partners and volunteers who 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 your gate fee and when you rent a campsite or inn room, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

In 2026, thanks to support from Lilly Endowment Inc., 45 new all-terrain track chairs will be available free of charge at every Indiana State Park and Indiana State Park Inn. Track chairs make it possible for visitors with limited mobility to explore trails, enjoy nature, and experience more of the state park system than ever before.

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 terms of 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. Be considerate of your neighbors and leave your site better than you found it when camping. Finally, take any trash home with you that you create in trails, picnic areas and beaches.

Get outside with family and friends or on your own, and wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, and wetlands. Enjoy 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

- Upgraded campground facilities at Mounds SRA with new sinks, faucets, mirrors, and paint.
- Mounds SRA Beach House received new paint, mirrors, and faucets.
- Mounds SRA Beach received new sand.
- New mulch was added at the Mounds SRA campground playground.
- Parking additions and improvements were made near hunting areas and sign-in boxes.
- Archery range received improvements.
- A chimney swift tower was installed at Quakertown SRA's shelter house
- Established 12 acres of native wildflower seed.
- Nesting boxes for bats, owls, kestrels, flying squirrels and bluebirds were installed.

- Forage and cover improvements were made in and around the dog trial fields totaling around 100 acres.
- 35 fish habitat structures were placed in the lake bottom.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Brown County State Park

- Lower shelter, Taylor Ridge Campground, and the lodge have new playgrounds.
- Improvements were made to the tornado damaged areas of the Horse Camp including site cleanup and restroom rehab. Work is being actively done on electric upgrade plans and site design/layout.
- Habitat improvement work for oak regeneration is happening near Ogle Lake through the Sam Shine Foundation and the Southern Indiana Cerulean Warbler BirdScape (SICWB) program.
- The entire lighting system at the indoor aquatics center at the lodge will be updated.
- New roof coming on the barn in Buffalo Ridge Campground.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber and Cataract SRAs)

- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA)

- Boat rental building was renovated and relocated to the boat rental dock.
- Hazardous trees were removed from the campground.
- Sedimentation removed from Mansfield Ramp.
- To promote fish habitat, several recycled Christmas trees were placed in the lake.
- New ADA playground surfaces added to several playground facilities.
- Removal of invasive plant species around the park completed in partnership with the Wabash Valley Invasive Project Weed Wrangle.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- A pollinator habitat was installed at the old campground play field thanks to the Chain O'Lakes Interpretive Fund at the Noble County Community Foundation.
- Three new additional campsites were added to the backpack canoe camp for a total of seven sites. These unique campsites with lake views will be open for reservations this year.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc. This chair compliments the existing smaller track chair that is still available for use.

Charlestown State Park

- Gravel pads were installed on all campsites in the Black Cherry Loop (sites 1-60).
- Staff cut and cleared overhanging trees and invasive species along the road to Rose Island and the road to the campground.
- Charlestown State Park will be participating in the cultural program this year which begins on May 30.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Clifty Falls State Park

- Rehab work completed on the campground amphitheater.
- Installed bird mic system at the Nature Center.
- The fire pit/program area near the Nature Center was revamped by an Eagle Scout.
- Added a purple martin birdhouse.
- Major vista clearing completed at the Big Clifty Overlook, Underlook, and on Trail 6.
- Thanks to the Clifty Falls Friends Group, rehab work is being done on a Green Thumb Water Fountain at the Nature Center.
- Outdoor pool renovations like painting pool grates, replacement of the zero-entry liner, and a rehab of lifeguard chairs is in progress.
- INDOT Restoration project on the historic bridge over Little Crooked Creek is expected to be complete by May 1.
- Installing an ADA playground in campground, estimated completion by July 1.
- Installing an ADA sidewalk and parking at the camp store, estimated completion by July 1.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Deam Lake SRA

- New displays about the Monon Trail and the Knobstone Trail added at the Nature Center.
- Several directional signs were installed throughout the park for wayfinding.
- All campsites have been renumbered with bigger, brighter numbers to make finding your campsite easier.
- All of the cabins have new AC units.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- Falls of the Ohio State Park is participating in the cultural program this year which begins on May 30.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Fort Harrison State Park

- Two new playgrounds have been installed.
- New flooring was installed in the Visitors Center.
- The bird viewing area was updated with new feeders and benches.
- Rehab to Delaware Shelter is underway, including new vertical beams and a new roof.
- New bulletin boards have been purchased and are being installed across the property.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Hardy Lake

- The sewer line from the campground lift station to campground gatehouse was replaced.
- Drainage tile was installed in the electric campground in areas known to hold water to allow for better drainage.
- Painted and installed new roof on the campground gatehouse.
- New water heaters have been installed at the beach shower house.

- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Harmonie State Park

- An Eagle Scout Project installed new wayfaring signs for the mountain bike trail.
- Trail 5 reopened after work on the Big Harmony Pond dam.
- Mountain bike trail bridges were replaced by Harmonie Mountain Bike Trial Builders Club.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- The Nature Center's JD Marshall exhibit, which highlights Indiana's first underwater nature preserve, was updated with help from Indiana Parks Alliance and the Friends of Indiana Dunes State Park to include an interactive/immersive area for young visitors.
- Updated 3 Dunes Challenge signage on Trail 8 to help keep visitors on the trail. It was installed in partnership with Porter County Tourism.
- The Nature Center building was painted inside and out. Updated lighting in the auditorium as well as the TVs and the videos that share educational information.
- A Centennial Challenge was established for the park's 100th anniversary. View more information at dnr.IN.gov/healthy.
- Construction began on a second bridge to the eastern half of the park. Once it is completed, the historic first bridge will be restored. When the work is completed, there will be two bridges, one for each direction of road traffic, as well as a new pedestrian walkway.
- New Hi-Spy scopes at the bird observation platform are available to all guests at no cost. There are two scopes of varying heights, including one designed for youth and individuals with accessibility requirements.
- "You Are Here" maps have been installed throughout the property to assist guests enjoy the 16.5 miles of hiking trails. Additional signage to help protect the dunes ecosystems was also installed.
- Creating a more user-friendly outdoor program area at the Nature Center fire ring. Once finished in late summer, this upgrade will include an accessibility ramp, bench-style seating, and will significantly enhance the experience of the naturalist programs.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc. This chair compliments the existing chairs still available for use.

Interlake SRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)

- Point of Interest 6, the Mud Bog area, was revamped and improved.
- Fire ring project was completed at the main parking lot.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lincoln State Park

- Conducted extensive repairs to the Lake Lincoln dam.
- Restarting the fisheries in Lake Lincoln as the lake refills naturally.
- Park entrance expansion.

- A new playground was installed at the beach.
- A new snapping turtle tank was added at the nature center.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

McCormick's Creek State Park

- Park visitors can anticipate the full opening of Trail 5 once the new bridge is completed later this year.
- The tornado damaged Trail 7 boardwalk has been removed and is anticipated to be completed in July.
- New playgrounds at Pine Bluff and Deer Run will be open this spring.
- Improved lighting was added at the recreation and tennis courts with more energy efficient LED fixtures.
- Invasive plant removal continues in the tornado damaged areas of Trails 5, 7, and the nature preserve.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Mississinewa Lake

- 30 acres of wildflowers habitat were planted for a host of native species.
- Repaired a 2-acre pond to provide critical waterfowl habitat and another fishing source in Frances Slocum SRA.
- An additional playground was installed in Miami SRA at the swimming beach. This will provide a much-needed family activity for day users at the beach.
- Red Bridge SRA public bathroom was rehabbed and is now ADA accessible.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Monroe Lake

- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Mounds State Park

- A new playground was installed at the picnic area.
- Smokey Bear fire danger sign added at the front of the park.
- New information bulletin boards have been installed.
- Corn hole game now available by the camp store.
- Informational tree signs were added along Trail 1.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- The oxen pair, Cash and Carter, are officially 4 years old and now ready to operate the historic haypress.
- The Mercantile Building at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center was rehabbed.
- New aluminum gutters and downspouts were added on the Haypress Barn and museum at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center.
- Fresh coat of paint was added inside Comfort Station C in the Class A Campground.
- Pollinator field planted on the dam at Pine Pond.
- Water hydrants were added throughout the park.

- Installed a playground at the Primitive Horse Camp.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Ouabache State Park

- New playground installed near the entrance of campground B.
- Four culverts will be replaced under park roads by June 1.
- Self-guided educational hike signage was installed around the bison exhibit.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Patoka Lake

- In 2025, open areas that were historically mowed within Newton Stewart SRA were converted into high quality native pollinator habitat/native pollinator demonstration plots. Eight sites were selected due to their full-sun exposure, suitable soils, and high visitor visibility, offering both ecological and educational benefits.
- A total of 50 Fishiding® bunker transition artificial habitat structures were installed at designated sites, increasing underwater structural complexity and providing long-term benefits for multiple fish species.
- Constructed and installed eight Pennsylvania-style porcupine crib structures to improve spawning habitat and offer important cover for juvenile fish.
- Continued coordination with regional fisheries staff on surveys and site evaluations to identify future shoreline and in-lake habitat enhancement opportunities and maintain the Reservoir Habitat Application via ArcGIS so that anglers can locate fish structures and obtain coordinates for their personal global positioning systems.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Pokagon State Park

- Pokagon infrastructure improvement started in fall of 2025 and is expected to be complete in late 2027. The project connects the sewer and waterline with the city of Angola. Please be mindful of contractors directing traffic.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Potato Creek State Park

- Work continues for the park's lodge.
- Completed utility transfer to North Liberty (Upgraded list stations, decommissioned WWTP, and a back-up generator used during owner failures).
- New mulch added for the accessible playground at Peppermint Hill.
- Rehabbed the culvert.
- Added a turtle aquarium at the Nature Center.
- Added outside wayside signage for a farm equipment display at the nature center.
- More than 65 park benches donated by RIVA Association.
- Installed owl boxes and two Super Bat structures.
- Roadside clearing and removal of hazardous trees.
- New fence for the Porter Rea Cemetery was installed.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Prophetstown State Park

- New roof, gutters were installed on the park office.
- Continued vegetation cleared in and around the campground.
- Campground playground drainage improvements.
- Campground 6x6 posts were replaced.
- New wildflower plantings near Harrison Creek.
- New mulch was added to playgrounds.
- Shelter support beams are being replaced
- New grain bin and storage barn at The Farm.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Redbird OSRA (Off-road State Recreation Area)

- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Salamonie Lake

- New playgrounds were added in the Apple Orchard Campground, Loop A horse campground, and by CS1 in electric campgrounds.
- New ADA adult changing station and restroom are available at the Interpretive Center.
- Updated 12 horseman's campsites in Loop A from primitive to electric sites.
- Added six additional backpack primitive campsites to the Bloodroot Trail system.
- New roof at Lost Bridge East shelter house.
- New disc golf baskets and concrete T off pads added on holes 1-9.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Shades State Park

- New ADA sidewalk leading from the parking lot to Hickory Shelter.
- The campground gate and camp store will receive a new roof and siding.
- Created a permanent campground host site.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Shakamak State Park

- A new playground will be installed in the campground.
- The HVAC system at the Group Camp Mess Hall was replaced.
- Improvements being made to the Tri-County Marker location.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Spring Mill State Park

- A color blind viewer added at the Lakeview Activity Center.
- New displays were installed in the grist mill, Lakeview Activity Center, and the Grissom Memorial Museum.
- A bike repair station was added at the camp store.
- New all-terrain track chairs will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Starve Hollow SRA

- Lake level was lowered through the winter for beach maintenance. Visitors should find a sandy bottom when they walk into the lake this year.
- New lighting installed and a fresh coat of paint added to the Nature Center.
- Campsites have been renumbered with bigger and brighter numbers.
- All cabins switched to new AC units.

Summit Lake State Park

- Brand new playground installed at the Picnic Area thanks to funds from Lilly Endowment Inc.
- A trail extension from the campground to Trail 4 will be completed.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Tippecanoe River State Park

- Major savanna restoration work completed on the South Loop Road.
- Constructed three new pull-through campsites in the Electric Campground.
- Rehabilitated several playgrounds with borders and safety surface.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Turkey Run State Park

- New wood shingle roof and gutters added to the Lieber Cabin located near Sunset Point.
- The entrance gate received a new wood shingle roof, siding repairs, and a fresh coat of paint.
- Rehabilitated Sunset Point and Newby Gulch lift stations.
- Middle restroom will be receiving new siding, trim, privacy partitions, and the entire facility will be painted.
- The campground gate will receive new siding and paint.
- Guest's rooms 213-221 at Turkey Run Inn were renovated.
- Guest's rooms 223-236 at Turkey Run Inn received new carpeting
- The restroom at the Roost Cabin was remodeled.
- Two new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Versailles State Park

- Playground received new mulch.
- Campground A restrooms will be spruced up by July 1.
- New waterlines and restoration of CCC Water Fountains in Campground A will be completed by July 1.
- Adding a lake observation point sitting area and walkway by July 1.
- A new all-terrain track chair will be available free of charge thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc.