



The SINGING SANDS

2025-26 Park Guide



NPS / Jeff Manuszak

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Indiana Dunes National Park



Indiana Dunes State Park



Two Great Parks... One Great Place (Page 2)

Superintendent's Welcome

Greetings fellow adventurers!

Welcome to your National Park and the land of sand and steel! You've arrived at a special and unique place. A place where nature and industry coexist, where the 5th most biodiverse national park in America sits adjacent to steel mills and communities that won world wars and still support a nation. A place where you'll find opportunities to enjoy a day in many different ways with your friends or family, or sit quietly alone, listening to waves softly lap (or thunder and crash, depending on the season) along the shoreline of one of largest freshwater lakes on the planet—Lake Michigan. It's a place of protection, restoration, recreation, and reconnecting... with family, community, and nature. It's a place where all are welcome, where you are welcome.

Thanks to the outstanding work of park teams, partners, and volunteers you may notice a variety of things that have happened recently or are occurring around the park this summer. Habitat restoration in the Great Marsh is ongoing and has already led to sandhill cranes nesting in the park again after a 70-year absence, bald eagles are more common, and river otters have come home. On the cultural resources front, funding from the Great America Outdoors Act is being used to restore the Good Fellow Lodge, Bailly Homestead and the 1933 World's Fair, House of Tomorrow, to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation. A new bridge was recently installed at the park's Douglas Center, merging beauty with functionality. Walking across this bridge is a portal to wonder, to nature-based exhibits, ranger-guided hikes, lectures, live animals, arts and crafts, and a restored and flourishing black oak savanna, a globally rare ecosystem. Lastly, work is completed, continuing, or starting on various sections of the Marquette Greenway Trail. Someday, we'll all be able to ride our bikes or walk from hotels, communities, or homes around the region (and



Indiana Dunes National Park
Superintendent Jason Taylor

beyond) to most destinations in the park, and perhaps even take the South Shore train in the opposite direction.

Park staff have developed a helpful shortlist of ways we can all "Be National Park Smart". We want this place, a National Park, to be special for a very long time and to be able to serve millions of visitors each year. This will take a commitment from everyone to recreate responsibly. We would greatly appreciate your pledge to review and follow the "park smart" tips found on page four.

Have fun, stay safe, protect the park. See you on the beach!



NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION



PARK WEBSITE
Scan QR code
or visit:
NPS.gov/INDU



Park Hours:

Open 6:00 am to 11:00 pm
Central Time (CT) unless
otherwise posted.

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Phone: (219) 395-1882
Hours of operation
Memorial Day to Labor Day
Open 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fall and Winter hours
Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Address: 1215 IN-49
Porter, IN 46304

Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Phone: (219) 395-1824
Hours of operation
Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Address: 100 North Lake Street
Gary, IN 46403

MAILING ADDRESS:

Indiana Dunes National Park
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304



Donald Estep

Call **911** to report emergencies.
For suspicious or criminal activity,
or to report other concerns, call
1-800-727-5847 or (1-800-PARKTIP).

Your adventure guide to the National Park and the State Park **DNR**

<p>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</p>  <p>Scan for Visitor Center's website</p> 	<p>Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education</p>  <p>Scan for Douglas Center's website</p> 	<p>Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center</p>  <p>Scan for State Park's website</p> 
<p>Getting here:</p>	<p>Getting here:</p>	<p>Getting here:</p>
<p> AND 1215 IN-49 Porter, IN 46304 Phone: (219) 395-1882</p> <p>Find all of your orientation needs here. Talk to a ranger and learn about the park's locations, activities, programs, and nearby attractions. View an informative film about the park and the region. Spend some time in the activity room to discover features about the park.</p>	<p> 100 North Lake Street Gary, IN 46403 Phone: (219) 395-1824</p> <p>A nature center for all. Interactive nature programs, activities, animals, and exhibits can be found here. Hike through the beautiful Miller Woods to the beach. Children can also explore the outdoor Nature Play Zone.</p>	<p>DNR 1600 N. 25 E. Chesterton, IN 46304 Phone: (219) 926-1390</p> <p>A variety of hands-on exhibits serve as a fantastic introduction to the wonders of the Indiana Dunes and its habitats. Here interpretive naturalists offer experiences via hikes, live animals, indoor programs, and special events to a range of audiences.</p>

National or State, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

DIFFERENCES	 NATIONAL PARK	DNR STATE PARK
LOCATIONS	The National Park has over 25 distinct locations to choose from, stretched across 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan and over 15,000 acres between Gary and Michigan City, IN.	One contiguous landscape, the State Park is composed of a large recreation area, 2,200 acres and 1,588 acres of state designated nature preserves and includes national natural landmarks.
ENTRANCE FEES	All are seven day entry passes: \$15 walk-in / bike-in / boat-in (up to \$25 family max.), \$25 vehicle pass, \$20 motorcycle pass, up to \$100 for commercial bus. See page 3 for annual passes.	Daily entrance fee: \$7 Indiana resident vehicle or \$12 nonresident vehicle. See page 3 for all passes.
CAMPING	Dunewood Campground: \$25 per night. Central Beach Backcountry Campsites: \$25 per night. Dunbar Group Campsite: \$100.00 per night. (p.5)	Indiana Dunes State Park Campground. \$24.61 Sun-Wed and \$32.10 Thur-Sat.
CONCESSIONS	West Beach Snack Bar & Gift Shop (seasonal), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion Snack Bar (seasonal).	Food service and gift shop available at beach pavilion. Gift shop available at nature center. Supplies, food, and gifts available at camp store.
BATHHOUSE AND PAVILION	West Beach Bathhouse: (Seasonal) Restrooms, snack bar, potable water, indoor showers, and lockers. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion: 3,500 square foot, includes restrooms, a seasonal snack bar and a classroom/meeting space.	Seasonal exterior showers and changing rooms, restrooms, changing stations, and sinks available at beach comfort station. Restrooms, food service, and gifts available in pavilion.
BEACH PARKING	Over 1,139 spaces spread over 8 beach access sites. Parking available at West Beach, Portage Lakefront, Porter, Kemil, Dunbar, Lake View, Central, and Mount Baldy beaches.	Two beach parking lots with approximately 2,000 spaces.
TRAILS	14 trail systems with more than 50 miles of trails. Maps on pages 16-21.	Network of nine numbered trails throughout the state park spanning 16.35 miles.
PICNIC AREAS	14 different picnic areas throughout the park, 7 are sheltered, and 2 are sheltered & reservable. For more information, or to reserve a picnic table, turn to page 7.	Beach picnic tables available during season at west lot. 15 acre picnic area with playground by Auxiliary lot. 6 reservable shelters, plus additional picnic tables and grilling areas throughout the park, 7 sheltered.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	Multitude of public programs and special events. See page 10.	Hosts variety of programs and special events. Visit calendar.dnr.IN.gov. or call at 219-926-1390.
CULTURAL SITES	Bathhouse (West Beach), Century of Progress Homes, Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm.	CCC Memorial Presentation Area, JD Marshall Underwater Nature Preserve, Wilson Shelter CCC Project Site, La Petite Fort Revolutionary War Historic Battle Marker, Historic Stone Gatehouses, Historic Beach Pavilion.

2 **No matter which park, we want you to be safe and enjoy your stay!**

Fees and Passes

SEPARATE PASSES ARE NEEDED FOR EACH PARK



Indiana Dunes National Park Annual Pass \$45

HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL PARK.

The Indiana Dunes National Park Annual Pass is your ticket to a year of outdoor wonder. Whether you're a seasoned explorer or a first-time visitor, this pass opens the door to breathtaking landscapes, serene beaches, and unforgettable memories.

Benefits of the annual pass are unlimited access, convenience, cost savings and it supports the park! It also makes a

great gift idea. The Annual Pass can be purchased at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Recreation.gov, or other locations throughout the area. The pass admits the pass owner and accompanying passengers traveling in the same vehicle. Pass owner must be present for entry.

Please display the pass on dashboard when parking with the expiration date clearly visible.



2025 annual pass. Photo by NPS / Jeff Manuszak.



Scan to visit Recreation.gov and purchase annual pass on your mobile device.



Entrance Fees

WHERE DO I PURCHASE A PARK ENTRY PASS?

Entry passes can be purchased at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, West Beach fee kiosk (seasonally), Paul H. Douglas Center, and Recreation.gov (or scan the QR Code on the right). State park entry passes can be purchased at location only.



NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE FEES

7-DAY ENTRY PASSES

Walk-in / Bike-in / Boat-in (up to \$25 family max.)	\$15
Vehicle Pass (Carload/Family)	\$25
Motorcycle	\$20
Commercial Vehicle	Up to \$100

DNR STATE PARK ENTRANCE FEES

1-DAY ONLY ENTRY PASSES (Non-Commercial)

Walk-in / Bike-in	\$2
In-State Vehicle Fee	\$7
Out-of-State Vehicle Fee	\$12
Bus	\$2 per person

Passes

WHICH PASS IS BEST FOR YOU?

The America the Beautiful Pass can be obtained at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, West Beach Kiosk (seasonally), by scanning the QR Code on the right, or visiting nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/fees.htm. Indiana Dunes State Park Passes are available at the State Park Office or Gate.



America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series

Indiana Dunes National Park Annual Pass	\$45	Expires 1 year from month of purchase
Passes below apply to all federal lands		
Annual Pass	\$80	Expires 1 year from month of purchase
Annual Senior Pass	\$20	62 years old, Expires 1 year from purchase
Lifetime Senior Pass	\$80	62 years or older
Military Pass	Free	Current military or a dependent
Military Lifetime Pass	Free	Retired military, veteran or Gold Star Family
4th Grade Pass	Free	Fourth graders and family
Access Pass	Free	Permanent disability
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 hours of volunteer work

DNR Indiana State Park Pass

Passes cover Indiana State Park entrance fees

Indiana State Park Annual Pass: resident	\$50	Calendar year pass
Indiana State Park Annual Pass: non-resident	\$70	Calendar year pass
Golden Hoosier Passport (GHP)	\$25	(65 years old) Calendar - year pass
GHP Social Security Disability Income	\$25	Indiana residents receiving or eligible to receive SSDI - year pass
GHP Disabled Hoosier Veterans	\$25	Indiana Veterans who possess or are eligible to purchase a DHV license plate. year pass

Be National Park Smart

You are one of more than 2.5 million people who visit each year. The park is fragile. We need every visitor to help protect it.



As we hope you discover, Indiana Dunes National Park is a hidden gem. While there are certainly differences in geography and uses, it's important to recognize that you are entering a National Park like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, or Yosemite.

While it may be relatively small in size, actually the fifth smallest National Park, Indiana Dunes National Park boasts an outsized impact. Its coastal landscapes encompass beaches, dunes, forests, wetlands, prairies, and more, creating a harmonious blend of nature that provides a home for many plants and animals and invites exploration and discovery. This remarkable park was designated in part to protect its astounding biological diversity, and today has the distinction of being the fifth most biodiverse park in America.

With the privilege of experiencing this natural wonder comes the responsibility to preserve and protect its fragile beauty for future generations. Your actions in this unique landscape matter immensely. How you navigate the park's fragile tapestry directly impacts its future. Each step you take matters. Help us to protect and preserve this unique National Park.



HAVE FUN
STAY SAFER

Here are some tips on how to "be park smart", how to safely enjoy your National Park while recreating responsibly.

For more information, or to view these tips on your mobile device scan the QR code seen here or visit [NPS.gov/indu/learn/tips.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/tips.htm)



1. Practice Water Safety – Wear a Life Jacket

Why: The park's waters can be unpredictable, making attention to safety crucial.

How: Wear life jackets, especially for children and non-swimmers. Always swim with a spotter. Follow lifeguard directions. Be aware of rip currents and shifting sandbars. Monitor the weather before your arrival and often throughout your visit. Stay out of the water when larger waves are present.



2. Stay off the Dunes

Why: The dunes are fragile, held together by delicate root systems and only minimal soil development. Just one footprint can start erosion and degradation of dune systems.

How: Do not climb up or on or dig in the dunes. Stay on the beach, specifically the sandy area from the water to the base of the dune.



3. Stay on Designated Trails

Why: Sensitive habitats damage easily, impacting viewsheds and homes to plants and wildlife. Restoring damage caused by people choosing to leave designated trails diverts resources from other essential park projects and programs.

How: Do not create shortcuts. Use park maps, signs, and/or the official NPS app to navigate using designated and marked trails and avoid venturing into restricted areas.



4. Carry out What You Carry in

Why: Trash on the ground diminishes natural beauty, harms wildlife, and diverts resources from essential park projects and programs for cleanup.

How: Practice Leave No Trace Principles - Carry out all trash and anything else you bring with you to the park.



5. Keep Your Pets on a Leash and Pick up their Waste

Why: Unleashed pets can be a threat to wildlife, damage sensitive habitats, or harass people who may be afraid of animals. No one wants to hike on a trail littered with dog poop. Plus, pet waste can introduce harmful bacteria into fresh water sources or pass diseases to wildlife.

How: Even a well-behaved dog can get excited when visiting our national parks. Always keep your dog on a 6-foot leash or less. Do your part to keep yourself, your animal, and other hikers safe. Pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste in trash receptacles or at home.

Following these tips will help you make the most of your visit to Indiana Dunes National Park while safeguarding its unique beauty. Have fun, stay safe, protect the park!



Protect The Park — Stay Off The Dunes

With so many visitors, we all have to work together to protect the dune ecosystems. Our dunes are iconic, but fragile. Just one footprint can destroy critical vegetation and trigger degradation of dune systems. Off-trail activity destroys threatened and endangered species and their habitats that the park is legally obligated to protect. **IMPORTANT!** Activities that destroy, deface, or disturb the natural state of the dunes are prohibited under 36 CFR 2.1. Individuals may face fines up to \$5,000 and/or up to six months in jail.



Lake Michigan is Beautiful but Dangerous

Killer Beauty — Although beautiful, Lake Michigan stands out as the deadliest of the five Great Lakes. Lake Michigan has had over 250 recorded cases of swimmers caught in rip currents since 2002. That is double when compared to the other four Great Lakes when combined. Lake Michigan also has the most drownings, with an annual death toll near the total sum of the other four Great Lakes. This lake is particularly dangerous due to its shape, which features 2 opposing unbroken shorelines that span 307 miles north and south. The unique shape creates the opportunity for deadly rip currents.

What is a Rip Current? — A rip current is a water current that can occur near beaches with breaking waves. A rip is a strong, localized, and narrow current of water which moves away from the shore, cutting through the lines of breaking waves like a river running out to deeper waters. A rip current is strongest and fastest nearest the surface of the water and can quickly pull swimmers out from the shore.

Drowning? Flip, Float, and Follow

FLIP: Flip over onto your back and float.

FLOAT: Float to keep your head above water, stay calm, and conserve energy.

FOLLOW: Follow the safest course to safety. Do not fight current. Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow. If too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.

Things to Do

Beaches and Swimming

Oh, what a joy to find a six by six foot patch of sand all to yourself! Within that square you might find solitude, fun, adventure, nature, or companionship. Whatever it is that you may be seeking, your two sandy parks, Indiana Dunes State Park and Indiana Dunes National Park have a beach for you.

If you are looking for a spot for a beach umbrella, or if you need a place that provides that little extra bit of safety with lifeguards, bathrooms, and showers, ample parking and terrific views, we have a perfect beach for you.

There are plenty of places to park at Indiana Dunes. Turn to page 12 for more detailed information about parking.

West Beach and Portage Lakefront have seasonal food vendors on location.

If you are coming from Chicago or South Bend, you can take the South Shore Line train and leave your car at home.

Beach-Going Tips List

- Bring lifejackets, sun block, lip balm, umbrella, bug spray, and drinking water.
- Pack lunches in sand proof containers.
- Do not bring glass containers.
- Some beaches have picnic shelters.
- Unless posted, alcohol is allowed at most national park beaches.
- Alcohol is prohibited at the state park.

Beaches

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • West Beach | • State Park |
| • Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk | • Dunbar Beach |
| • Porter Beach | • Lake View Beach |
| • Kemil Beach | • Central Ave. Beach |
| | • Mount Baldy Beach |

Find Your Thing To Do

P.5 Beaches
Biking
Camping
Hiking

P.6 Driving Tours

P.7 Jr. Ranger
Birding
Winter Activities
Paddling
Picnicking

P.8 Arts in the Park
Fishing
Geocaching
Historic Sites

P.9 Horseback Riding
Winter Activities
Food & Services
Visit Pullman
National Historical
Park

Beach Hazards - *Is it safe to swim?*

Not always, so know before you go! Rip currents, shelf ice, E. coli, and unhealthy air quality are potential dangers all beach visitors need to be aware of before jumping into Lake Michigan. To learn more about these potential dangers, scan the QR code seen here or visit our beach safety page at [NPS.gov/induplanyourvisit/beach-safety.htm](https://www.nps.gov/induplanyourvisit/beach-safety.htm)



SCAN FOR BEACH SAFETY



Biking

Discover much more than sand dunes as you bike on an interconnected trail system that spans 37 miles across the entire length of the national park.

A wide variety of biking trails traverse the various habitats and cultural history of Indiana Dunes National Park. The varying lengths make it easy to choose the trail that's right for you. From a short easy ride to a challenging all-day trek, most of the trails are open all year, and the experience will change with each season.

Popular Biking Trails:

- **Calumet Bike Trail**
Gravel, 19.0 miles round trip, flat.
WARNING - Rugged trail conditions
- **Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail**
Paved, 3.6 miles round trip, paved, flat.
- **Porter Brickyard Bike Trail**
Paved, 7.0 miles round trip, some hills.
- **Prairie Duneland Bike Trail**
Paved, 22.4 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.
- **Marquette Bike Trail**
Paved, 4.6 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.
- **Oak Savannah Bike Trail**
Paved, 17.8 miles round trip, rail trail, flat.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our biking page at [NPS.gov/induplanyourvisit/biking.htm](https://www.nps.gov/induplanyourvisit/biking.htm)



Camping

Dunewood Campground

- Golf Wood Road & Dunewood Parkway, Beverly Shores, IN 46301
- GPS Coordinates: 41.671786, -86.983985 (Decimal Degrees).

Campground consists of two loops containing 66 campsites (53 conventional drive-in sites and 13 walk/carry-in sites). Four sites are wheelchair accessible (numbers 15, 30, 41 and 55). Each loop has restrooms and hot/cold showers. Some sites have limited recreational vehicle length. No electric or sewer.

- \$25.00 per night camping fee (expanded amenity fee). 50% discount for Senior Annual, Senior Lifetime, and Access Passholders.



Campground Map on Page 21.

Central Avenue Walk-in Campsites

- Located off Central Avenue, Beverly Shores, IN 46301.
- GPS Coordinates: 41.702065, -86.946963 (Decimal Degrees).

5 walk-in tent-only camp sites are located roughly ½ mile hike from the Lake Michigan shoreline. Each site is roughly a 0.6 mile hike from the parking lot located on Central Ave. These primitive sites are pack-in pack-out only, including trash. There is no potable water at camp sites. A fire ring is provided at each site.

- \$25.00 per night camping fee (expanded amenity fee). 50% discount for Senior Annual, Senior Lifetime, and Access Passholders.

Dunbar Group Campsite

- Beverly Shores, IN 46301
- GPS Coordinates: 41.682476, -87.001699 (Decimal Degrees).



The Dunbar Group Campsite is available for groups up to 30 people. The site is located about 600 feet from Lake Michigan. Parking and facilities are located at the Dunbar parking lot, about 400 feet from the site.

- \$100.00 per night camping fee (expanded amenity fee). There are no discounts on the group site.

For more information on camping and reservations, scan the QR code seen here, or visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and search Indiana Dunes.



Hiking

Discover much more than sand dunes as you hike 14 distinct trail systems covering more than 50 miles of trails.

A wide variety of hiking trails traverse the various habitats and cultural history of Indiana Dunes National Park.

STAY ON THE TRAILS.



STAY OFF THE DUNES.

TRAIL MAPS

ALL of our trail maps and hiking info can be found on pages 16-20.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Hiking page at [NPS.gov/induplanyourvisit/hiking.htm](https://www.nps.gov/induplanyourvisit/hiking.htm)



Driving Things to Do

Driving Tours



DRIVING TOUR: WEST SIDE
Approximately 1-2 Hours
15 Miles Total



West Side Driving Tour Points of Interest

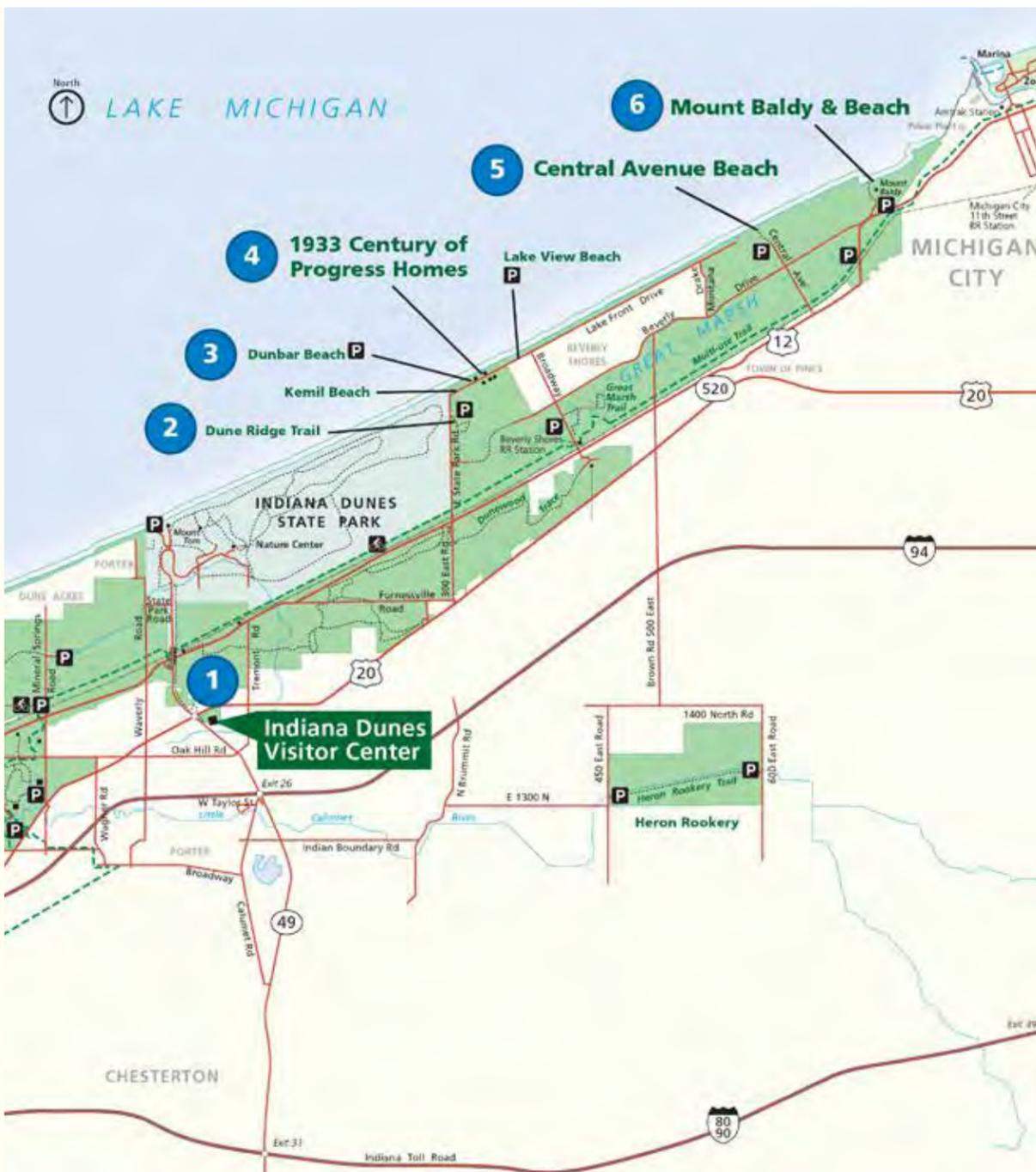
1. Indiana Dunes Visitor Center - Start your trip here and get orientated with the park. 1215 IN-49, Porter, IN 46304, Phone: 219-395-1882.
2. Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm – Go for a short stroll and learn about one of the park’s historic sites and see the farm animals. 618 North Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304.
3. Portage Lakefront - Enjoy a view of Lake Michigan from the pavilion. Seasonal food services are available. Walk along the breakwater for fishing and birdwatching. Check out the Sacred Sands Audio Tour. 100 Riverwalk Road, Portage, IN 46368.
4. West Beach - Enjoy the bathhouse, lifeguarded beach, and hike the Dune Succession Trail. 376 North County Line Road, Gary, IN 46403.
5. Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education- Check out exhibits, classrooms or hike the 3.5-mile trail through Miller Woods to the beach. 100 North Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403.



DRIVING TOUR: EAST SIDE
Approximately 1-2 Hours
14 Miles Total

East Side Driving Tour Points

1. Indiana Dunes Visitor Center - Start your trip here and learn about the park. 1215 IN-49, Porter, IN 46304 Phone: 219-395-1882.
2. Dune Ridge Trail (If you have time!) – Offers great views of the extensive wetlands and forests. 300E State Park Rd, Beverly Shores, IN 46301 (page 19).
3. Kemil, Dunbar, Lake View Beaches – Provides the quickest access to the shoreline from the parking lots. Recommended for breathtaking sunset views that set the Chicago skyline aglow. All in Beverly Shores, IN 46304.
4. Century of Progress Historic District – Constructed for the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair to display the future of housing. Lake Front Drive, between Dunbar Ave. and Derby Ave., Beverly Shores, IN 46304.
5. Central Avenue – A beach where you can enjoy a quiet walk and watch the bank swallows come and go from their nests. Central Beach, Beverly Shores, IN 46301.
6. Mount Baldy – Hike to the beach and witness this area’s largest moving dune. 101 Rice St (US 12) Michigan City, IN 46360.



More Things to Do

Become a Junior Ranger

The Junior Ranger Activity Guide will help you explore the Indiana Dunes like never before. The guidebook can be picked up at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. When you complete the Junior Ranger Activity Guide, bring it back to either center to receive a Junior Ranger badge.

In addition to the larger Junior Ranger Activity Guide, Indiana Dunes has a Beachcomber Activity Sheet for families enjoying the beach for the day. You can pick up a beach activity sheet at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center. Upon completion you will receive a Junior Ranger sticker.

You can also download printable versions of these activities on our website.



To download, scan the QR code or visit [NPS.gov/indul/learn/kidsyouth/junior-ranger.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indul/learn/kidsyouth/junior-ranger.htm)



Birding

Located at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, the national park is an important feeding and resting area for migrating birds.

Lake Michigan influences the migration patterns of bird species. During fall migration, southbound birds follow the north-south shorelines of the lake and are funneled into the Indiana Dunes. The large expanse of open water and miles of shoreline also attract large numbers of wintering birds.

Popular Birding Trails:

- **Paul H. Douglas Trail (Miller Woods)**
Featured hike: Moderate, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.
- **Cowles Bog Trail**
Featured hike: Moderate to rugged, 4.7 miles in length, hike time of 4 hours. Park at park headquarters when Cowles Bog parking lot is full.
- **Great Marsh Trail**
Featured hike: Easy, 1.3 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here or visit our birding page at [NPS.gov/indul/planyourvisit/birdwatching.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indul/planyourvisit/birdwatching.htm)



Winter Activities

Hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing are popular in wintertime. If you need snowshoes, free rentals are available at the Paul H. Douglas Center for use on the trail, weather permitting.

Visitors may bring their own snowshoes and cross-country skis at other places in the park. A 3-to-4 inch snow base is recommended. Trails are not groomed. Call 219-395-1882 for trail conditions.

Hikers and visitors using snowshoes are asked to walk to the right of the cross-country ski tracks whenever possible.

Sledding is permitted at two locations in the parks: just southwest of the West Beach picnic shelters on the east slope of the West Beach Trails and at the Devil's Slide in the State Park, just east of the main parking lot. Dial 219-395-1882 with any questions. **Snowmobiling is not permitted anywhere in either park.**



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our winter activities page at [NPS.gov/indul/planyourvisit/winteractivities.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indul/planyourvisit/winteractivities.htm)



Paddling

Paddling can be an exciting, healthy, and challenging activity for you and your family to enjoy while visiting the park. It has become increasingly popular as we have a huge lake, plenty of other creeks, and waterways to satisfy your inner paddling desires.

Get ready for miles of water routes, dune-covered shores, and natural meandering bends of the waterways. With multiple access points along the lake and eight nearby launch sites that meet accessibility standards, paddling adventures are easily within reach. Just be sure to have the right type of kayak and safety gear for navigating the dynamic waters of Lake Michigan!



For more information, scan the QR code, or visit our fishing and boating page at [NPS.gov/indul/planyourvisit/fishing-and-boating.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indul/planyourvisit/fishing-and-boating.htm)



Picnicking

Covered picnic shelters with tables are located at locations around the park along with modern restrooms. Cooking fires are allowed only in provided grills or approved carry-in grills at designated locations. An approved grill is a noncombustible container with an enclosed bottom and enclosed sides with a minimum depth of two inches. Charcoal must be cooled and safely disposed of in a noncombustible container or removed from the area.

The following picnic shelters can be reserved in advance at www.recreation.gov:

- **Bailly Chellberg:** There are three covered picnic shelters near the parking lot with one that is wheelchair accessible. The shelters are

reservable starting six months in advance of the desired use date. The reservation is good for day use, normally from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm (CT).

- **West Beach:** There are eight covered picnic shelters near the parking lot, two of which are wheelchair accessible. Shelters can be reserved up to six months in advance of the desired use date. Reservations are valid for day use, typically from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm (CT).

Shelter reservation does not waive the national park entrance fee or guarantee parking for your group. Plan to arrive early (especially weekends and holidays).

The picnic shelters at Glenwood Dunes, Lake View, Mount Baldy, and Tremont are available on a first come, first served basis.



For reservations or more information, scan the QR code or visit our picnicking page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Picnic tables are also provided at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education's picnic area and Nature Play Zone, Central Avenue Beach parking lot, Dunbar Beach parking lot, Porter Beach south parking lot, Pinhook Bog parking lot, and at the Tolleston Dunes Overlook. Cooking fires are not permitted at these locations.

Even More Things to Do

Arts in the Park

Artists

Artists of all forms have been a part of the national parks since the 1800s. The famed Hudson River painters played a vital role in capturing the grand landscapes of the West. It was through their art that the public came to see these special places in America. Their surveys of the majestic landscapes motivated visitors to witness the beauty for themselves.

The legacy of art continues with the Artist-in-Residence program at Indiana Dunes National Park. The artwork created by the artist serve

as great ambassadors for the inspiration, preservation, and stewardship of the dunes.

Artists who participate in this program receive residence for two weeks in exchange for a piece of art. The artists spend the days seeking their muse of choice as they explore the dunes.

If you would like to be considered to carry on the heritage of arts in the park, visit the web page or scan the QR code on the right.



For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Artist-in-Residence page at [NPS.gov/indu/getinvolved/supportyourpark/air.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/getinvolved/supportyourpark/air.htm)



Fishing

Fishing is allowed under federal, state, and local laws. You need an Indiana fishing license and a stamp if fishing for trout and salmon.

Casting out your line for Chinook, Coho salmon, lake trout and Skamania steelhead is a great way to spend a day.

Fishing the Little Calumet River during the steelhead run is a worthy challenge and the

Portage Lakefront fishing pier offers lakeside fishing.

Spring time is wonderful for fishing salmon, trout, bass, bluegill and pumpkinseed.

The summer season is good for yellow perch swimming close to the Lake Michigan shore.

As with any adventure, planning ahead is always a great idea to make good fishing memories. Start your fishing adventure by visiting the web page linked on the right.



For more information, scan the QR code, or visit our fishing and boating page at [NPS.gov/indu/planyourvisit/fishing-and-boating.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/fishing-and-boating.htm)



Geocaching

Join the Fun!

Geocaching is the outdoor adventure where players (called geocachers) use a Geocaching app or GPS to find hidden containers around the world.

Indiana Dunes National Park offers an exciting geocaching experience, blending adventure with the park's stunning natural landscapes.

With miles of trails winding through dunes, wetlands, forests, and prairies, geocachers can explore diverse terrains while searching for traditional and virtual caches. The park's official geocaching programs are an exciting way to learn about the Maple sugaring process and about geological processes that drive Mount Baldy. Whether you're a seasoned geocacher or new to the hobby, Indiana Dunes provides a rewarding outdoor treasure hunt that connects visitors to nature and conservation in a fun, interactive way.



To get started today, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Geocache page at [NPS.gov/indu/planyourvisit/indiana-dunes-geocaching.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/indiana-dunes-geocaching.htm)



Historic Sites in the Park

The dunes are more than a beach

Did you know that most of our national parks tell the stories of history and not nature? Most visitors to the Indiana Dunes National Park only think of the natural environment, like the Lake Michigan shoreline and sand dunes. This park also has much to offer a history buff.



Chellberg Farm

The Anders Chellberg family, along with other Swedish immigrants, found employment through Joseph Bailly's son-in-law. After buying 80 acres and then clearing the forest for farming, the Chellbergs built a house, chicken coop, windmill and a building to store their grain. Animals like horses, goats, chickens, pigs, cats, and later cows helped the family to do work or were eaten. The farmhouse and barn are open for special events such as Maple Sugar Time in March.



Bailly Homestead

Joseph Bailly traded furs with the Potawatomi and Miami nations from 1822-1835 along the banks of the Little Calumet River at our Bailly Homestead site. Joseph ran his moderately successful fur trade post here and even made plans for a proposed community called the Town of Bailly. He died before this dream could be realized, but his wife and daughters continued living here until 1917.

Century of Progress Historic District

The World's Fair of 1933-34 in Chicago was themed a Century of Progress and, indeed, the



five homes brought afterwards to the Indiana shoreline of Lake Michigan, showed new amenities like electric garage door openers and dishwashers. Each of these five homes showed quite different architecture styles. These homes have been restored by lessees, managed through Indiana Landmarks. Exteriors of the structures can be viewed daily, and once a year, reservations can be made to tour the interiors.

Plan your adventure: You can hike the Little Calumet River trail to see the Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, or visit the east beaches, Kemil, Dunbar, and Lakeview to walk around the Century of Progress District.

To learn more, scan the QR code, or visit our Historic Places page at [NPS.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/historic-places.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/historic-places.htm)



And Even Other Things to Do

Horseback Riding

Glenwood Dunes

1475 North Brummitt Road
Chesterton, IN 46304

The Glenwood Dunes Trails are the national park's only equestrian trails. There is not a horse rental concession, but visitors are welcomed to ride their horses here from March 16 to December 14. If there is sufficient snow cover for cross-country skiing (3 inches or more) before December 15 or after March

15, the trail will remain closed to horseback riding. Horses are prohibited in the winter to prevent accidents with cross-country skiers on the trail.

The parking lot is large enough for horse trailers. In the parking lot and picnic area, all horse manure must be bagged, removed from the area and disposed of appropriately. Horses are prohibited on all roads. Pets are prohibited at Glenwood Dunes year-round.



PAUL KEMIEL

For more information, scan the QR code, or visit our horseback riding page at [NPS.gov/indu/planyourvisit/horse.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/horse.htm)



Rentals and Lodging



Rental on the Lake

Discover the perfect blend of natural beauty and modern elegance at the Portage Lakefront Classroom, a glass-walled venue nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan within the picturesque Indiana Dunes National Park. Our unique space is available for short-term rentals, making it an ideal setting for a variety of events, from corporate meetings and training sessions to unforgettable weddings and intimate celebrations like birthday parties and baby showers.

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk was opened in October 2008. The redevelopment of the site, formerly used by a steel corporation as settling ponds for industrial byproduct and a sewage treatment facility, is a successful

model of brownfield reclamation. The land, buildings, and facilities at the site are owned by the National Park Service and operated in partnership with the City of Portage.

A 3,500 square foot public pavilion includes restrooms, a seasonal snack bar and a glass walled classroom/meeting space. The pavilion has accessible restrooms and is a Gold LEED certified building. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council. The public facilities were designed and developed to minimize their impact on the reclaimed landscape.

Address: Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion is located at 100 Riverwalk Drive, Portage, IN 46368.



Cypress Log Cabin

For reservations, scan the QR code seen here, or visit... [inthedunes.com](https://www.inthedunes.com)



Lodging in the park

The historic Cypress Log Cabin, is now available for overnight stays. Designed by Murray D. Heatherington, it was featured at the 1933-34 Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago. Built to showcase the durability of cypress wood, it incorporated cypress in nearly every part of the structure. Camping is also available in the park. See page 5.

For more information, scan the QR code seen here, or visit our Doing Business With Us page at [NPS.gov/indu/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm)



Nearby Attractions: A short 45 minute drive.

Visit Pullman National Historical Park

A Story of American Opportunity.

In a growing Chicago neighborhood decades ago, diverse people and stories were intertwined. All were seeking opportunity. Some succeeded. Their stories came together in Pullman, a planned industrial community famed for its urban design and architecture.

Park Rangers recommend to set aside a half day to explore Pullman National Historical Park.

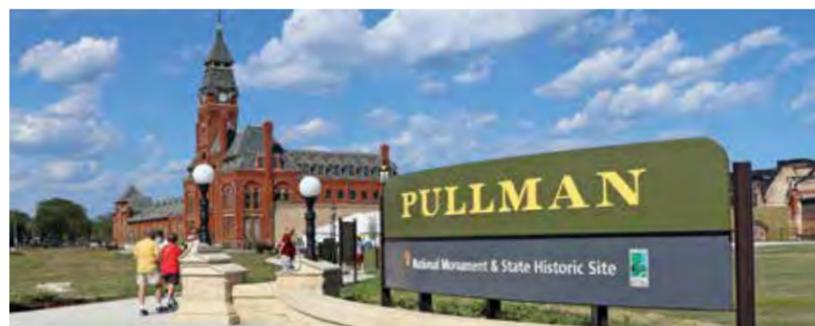
If you only have a couple of hours, start at the Administration-Clock Tower Building to enjoy introductory exhibits by the National Park Service. There, a ranger can help craft a trip itinerary that best fits your interests for the day. You can join a scheduled ranger tour, view historic buildings around the neighborhood, and visit the Pullman Exhibit Hall.

With an hour or less, rangers suggest grabbing a self-guided tour map and a park brochure before getting out there to see the historic neighborhood. However, consider coming back again to learn more about how Pullman stories transformed America and the world!

Core Hours & Location:

Weekly: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (CT)

Address: 610 E. 111th St, Chicago, IL 60628

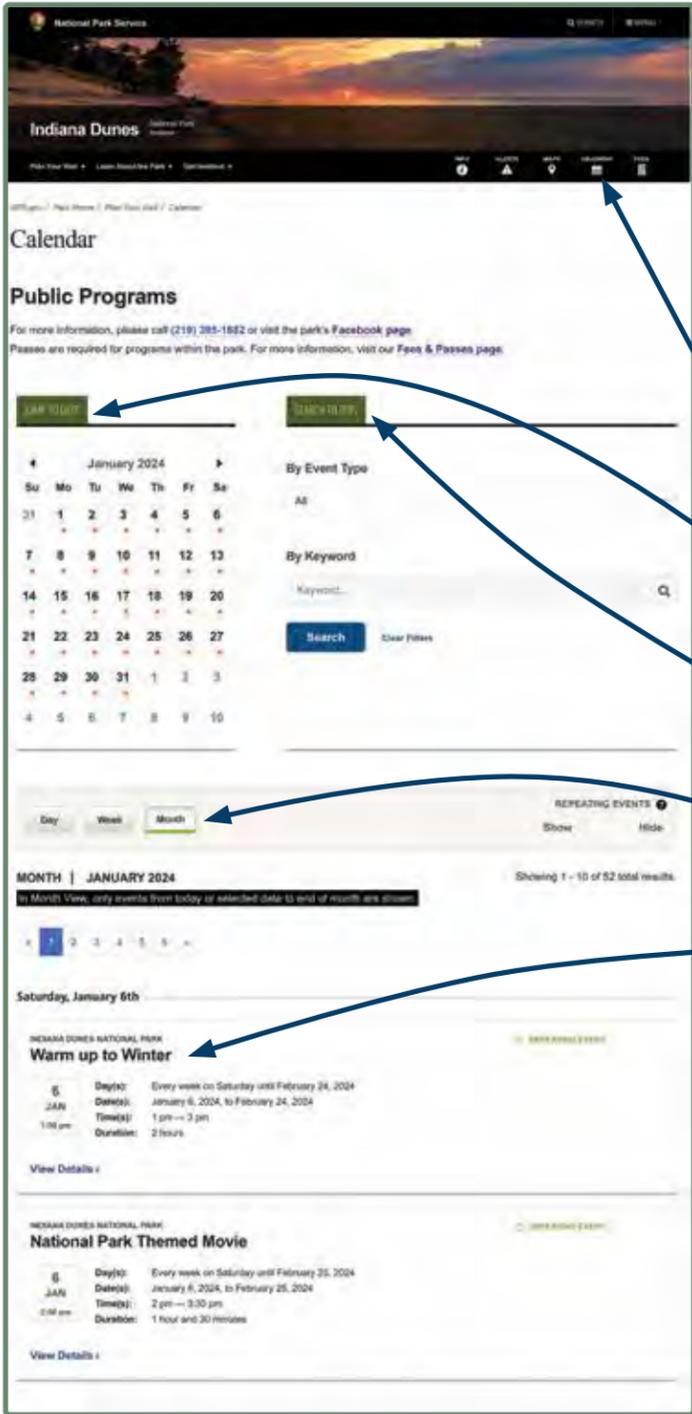


For more information about the Pullman National Historical Park, scan the QR code, or visit the website: [NPS.gov/PULL](https://www.nps.gov/PULL)





Calendar of Events



WEB CALENDAR



To find our ranger-led programs or events, we offer a handful of calendar formats that list a variety of park activities. We hope you love your time at Indiana Dunes National Park. Please remember that events within the park require a national park pass (see page 3).

Instructions on how to use our website calendar:

1. Visit the park's website calendar page by scanning the QR code above or by clicking the calendar link at NPS.gov/INDU.
2. If you're planning to visit on a later date, and don't need to filter for a specific type of event, just select a preferred day on the JUMP TO DATE calendar. Then scroll down.
3. If you'd like to filter the programs, below the SEARCH FILTERS, click the dropdown to select "By Event Type" tab, and/or type your keyword (ex. hike) under "By Keyword." After that, click Search. Then scroll down.
4. If you'd like to view the listed programs around a specific date, click "Week" or "Month" above the program listings. Click the arrows next to the month's name to navigate through the months. Then scroll down.
5. If you're at the park or visiting in the near future, just scroll down, past the calendar and filters, to view a list of the current programs available.

Other formats of the park calendar:

Facebook

On our Facebook page, click on our Events tab to view upcoming events.

NPS App

On our park's page, click on the Park Calendar button near the bottom.

Bulletins

Park event bulletins are placed at various trailheads and park beaches.

Visitor Center

Come inside for a bulletin handout at the reception desk.



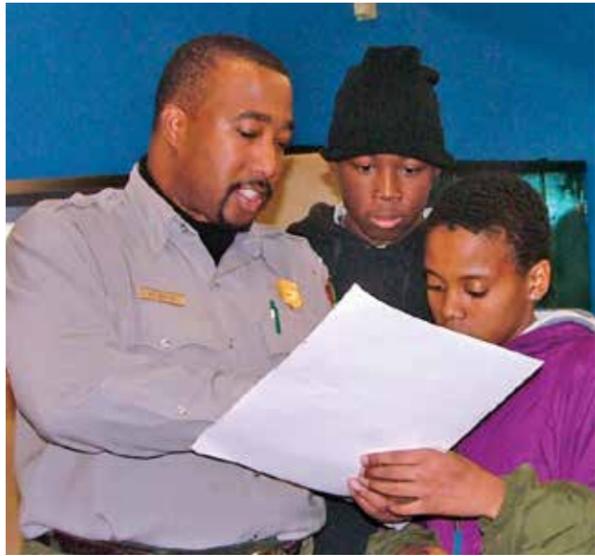
Yearly Programs and Events



SCAN HERE for park programs and events

Education Programs in the Park

The National Park offers many educational opportunities.



From on-site to virtual tours, here are some suggestions of park specific activities to create your learning experience:

1. At the Paul H. Douglas for Environmental Education, located on 100 N Lake Street in Gary, you can visit the in-house reptiles, fish, and amphibians. While there, pick up a Jr. Ranger book that challenges you explore and learn about the park.
2. Also located at the Douglas Center complex is the Nature Play Zone, a large area to play in the sand, build a fort and discover the joy of outdoor play.
3. The Indiana Dunes web site at NPS.gov/INDU offers a series of virtual tours for many locations in the park. Local geography, geology, and flora and fauna are discussed.

4. The Dunes Learning Center, by reservation, provides summer camps, teacher workshops, and other programming. Visit DunesLearningCenter.org.
5. Schools and organizations can schedule a virtual or ranger-led program at 219-395-1885 or email indu_education@nps.gov.



BARK Rangers & Pet Information

BARK Rangers is a nationwide NPS initiative to educate pet owners on responsible behavior. Pet owners can pick up their one-page worksheet at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education or the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or print one from the bark ranger web page at www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/bark-rangers.htm

After a hike with your dog in the park and answering a few worksheet questions, simply return to one of the centers to receive a brass tag with Indiana Dunes National Park logo for your dog. These tags are furnished by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes.



Donations to help support the program are appreciated.

Whenever you visit a national park, always ask if they have the BARK Ranger program, as many do. If you are a frequent visitor, your dog can become a BARK ranger ambassador and sport a stylish Indiana Dunes scarf. These dogs and owners are tasked with roving the trails and beaches where dogs are allowed and informing visitors of the BARK Ranger rules and program.

This program gets its name from the BARK ranger rules:

- Bag your waste
- Always wear a leash
- Respect wildlife
- Know where you can go



Please keep in mind that pets are permitted on most park trails and beaches as long as they are leashed (6' or less). Pets are prohibited inside government buildings, except for the West Beach bathhouse.

Also remember that at West Beach and the State Park beach, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, pets are prohibited on the beach within the lifeguarded areas. This area is the section of beach directly north of the bathhouse stairs and is designated along the beach with park signs. Pets are only permitted to walk through the lifeguarded area to reach the beaches on either side.

Pets are not allowed on the Glenwood Dunes Trail, Pinhook Bog Trail and the designated nature play areas. This avoids conflicts with equestrian riders, protects sensitive vegetation, and provides for compatible use with other visitors.

To see where dogs are allowed, check out our hiking guide on page 15.



We Are Now Mobile Friendly



Did you know our park has an official app? Well, it sure does, and its free! Not only is the app available for our park, but also 400+ parks nationwide, both Apple iOS and Android mobile friendly.

The NPS App was created by National Park Service staff—people who know national parks—to help you make the most of your visit. The NPS App takes authoritative information from park rangers and combines it with a great suite of features. To the right is a quick look at some of those features. The app includes interactive maps, amenities, things to do, accessibility, news, alerts, and events. You can also share your visit with others and download park information for offline usage.

If you don't find what you are looking for now, check back regularly as our rangers continue to add more ways for you to experience the park through the NPS app. Stay tuned for more!



Top Visitor Questions

What time does the park close?

Unless otherwise posted, all public use areas are open daily from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm (CT).

National Park Summer Hours:
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)
Visitor Center open 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Douglas Center open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

National Park Winter Hours:
(Labor Day through Memorial Day)
Visitor Center open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Douglas Center open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

State Park open 7:00 am to 11:00 pm
Nature Center open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Visit nps.gov/indu/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm for more information on hours throughout the park.

Where can I buy food?

The local towns outside the park have many choices for restaurants and grocery stores. Within the park, visitors can grab a bite at concession operations working at West Beach and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.

The Pavilion at Indiana Dunes State Park offers a number of food options.

Which trail is best to hike?

The national park has over 50 miles of trails and the state park another 16+ miles. You can find trail information and maps in this guide on pages 16-23. You can also download the NPS app at [NPS.gov/subjects/digital/nps-apps.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/digital/nps-apps.htm) or visit our hiking page at [NPS.gov/indu/planyourvisit/hiking.htm](https://nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/hiking.htm).

Where may I climb a dune?

Long Lake Trail at West Beach has a dune face on the marked trail, which visitors enjoy climbing. In addition, it hosts the Dunes Succession Trail and a set of stairs to traverse the dune. Both dunes offer great views.

The 3 Dune Challenge at Indiana Dunes State Park offers guests the opportunity to reach the summits of the three tallest dunes in the park.

Can I take public transportation to the park?

Yes. The South Shore train has four stops near park access sites and runs between Chicago and South Bend. For a schedule, visit mysouthshoreline.com. See page 3 for transportation info.

Do you close the beach when high waves are present or E. coli levels are high?

No, except for West Beach swimming area, which may close for high waves. The national park does not normally close beaches due

to water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas, and you must determine what is safe for you. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach and may close swimming waters if needed. Lifeguards are not present at other national park beaches.

State park waters are only open when lifeguards are on duty and conditions are appropriate for swimming. Call the state park for water conditions at 219-926-1390.

Call the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 for information regarding E. coli levels.

Do you have a campground?

Yes. The national park has the Dunewood Campground, Dunbar Beach Group Site, and Central Beach Backcountry sites. See details on page 5 or call 219-395-1882.

Indiana Dunes State Park also has a large campground with electricity. They recommend reservations most of the year. For more information, see page 21 for state park info or visit camp.in.gov



Are the parks accessible?

Yes. The national and state park host a multitude of increasingly accessible features. Turn to page 22 for national park accessibility information or call (219) 926-1390 for the state park.

Where can I buy gifts?

We invite you to the visitor center's park store, which offers a wide variety of national park books and products to take a few Indiana Dunes National Park memories home with you. Contact our visitor center (page 2) for more information.

Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! There are several Junior Ranger books to guide your adventures through various park locations. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge or sticker. Pick up Junior Ranger materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or the Douglas Center. For more information, turn to page 7.

The State Park offers the Explorer Pin program for adventurers of all ages.

May I take my pet with me for a hike?

Yes. Pets are permitted on most park trails and beaches as long as they are leashed (6' or less) and waste is removed. Pets are prohibited inside government buildings, except for the West Beach bathhouse.

West Beach and State Park beach – From

Memorial Day through Labor Day, pets are prohibited on the beach within the lifeguarded areas. This area is the section of beach directly north of the bathhouse stairs and is designated along the beach with park signs. Pets are only permitted to walk through the lifeguarded area to reach the beaches on either side.

Pets are not allowed on the Glenwood Dunes Trail, Pinhook Bog Trail and the designated nature play area. This avoids conflicts with equestrian riders, protects sensitive vegetation, and provides for compatible use with other visitors.

Where can I find the weather?

Weather conditions can mean a few different things, which may also include wave conditions, water temperatures, and beach monitoring (E. coli testing). These factors and more can be found on our weather page at nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/weather.htm

What are the fees?

Indiana Dunes is home to both a national park and a state park. Both are incredible parks that offer countless recreation opportunities. However, Indiana Dunes National Park is managed by the federal government and Indiana Dunes State Park is owned by the State of Indiana. As such, each park has fees and passes that are separate and unique. None of the passes and fees work between the two parks. For more information, turn back to page 3.

Can I get married in the park?

Yes. You will need a Special Use Permit (SUP), which allows for activities that take place within a national park outside typical and ordinary visitor use. These events may include gatherings and activities such as weddings, sporting events, and sales. You will need written SUP authorization from the park before the event or activity takes place. For more information, visit [NPS.gov/indu/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm](https://nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm)

Can I run my business in the park?

Yes, maybe. You will need to apply for a commercial use authorization (CUA), which is a business permit with the National Park Service that authorizes an individual, group, company, or other for-profit entity to conduct commercial activities associated with a park. The National Park Service will only issue CUAs for commercial activities and visitor services that are determined to be an appropriate use of Indiana Dunes National Park, will have minimal impact on Indiana Dunes National Park's resources and values, and are consistent with Indiana Dunes National Park's purpose, management plans, policies, and regulations. For more information, visit [NPS.gov/indu/getinvolved/commercial_use_authorization.htm](https://nps.gov/indu/getinvolved/commercial_use_authorization.htm)

Getting Here by Public Transportation



BY TRAIN - Northern Indiana Commuter Train District:
The South Shore train has 3 stops, plus one flag stop, near park access sites, and runs between Chicago and South Bend.

The stops near the park are:

- **Miller** - Paul H. Douglas Center and trails (20 minute walk)
- **Ogden Dunes** - Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk (32 minute walk)
- **Dune Park** - Indiana Dunes State Park (33 minute walk)
- **Beverly Shores** (Flag stop)
 - Dunewood Campground (4 minute walk)
 - Great Marsh (3 minute walk)
 - Lakeview Beach (22 minute walk)

For a schedule, visit mysouthshoreline.com.



BY BUS - Gary Public Transportation Corporation has bus routes on the west end of the park: Bus route 13 (Oak & County Line Road) passes directly in front of the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and close to the entrance of West Beach. The Douglas Center and West Beach are located on the park's west end. Visit www.gptcbus.com for current schedules and fares.

Paul H. Douglas Center: East bound riders can get off the bus at the corner of 4th & Lake Street and walk about 2 blocks north on Lake Street to the center. West bound riders should ask the driver to stop in front of the center located on Lake Street between Birch and 3rd Street. If the driver is unable to stop in front of the center, then get off at the corner of 3rd and Lake Street and walk about 1 block north.



INSECT SAFETY

Insect Bites and Stings:

Ticks are present year-round. Take precautionary measures to prevent bites.

- Use insect repellent
- Wear light neutral colored, long-sleeved shirts.
- Tuck pants into your shoes.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk to help prevent mosquito bites.
- Avoid loose and brightly printed clothing to help prevent yellow jackets and other stinging insects.
- Do not wear sandals while hiking; avoid wearing perfume, lotion, and hairspray.
- Insect repellents DO NOT work against stinging insects.
- If stung, seek medical attention if symptoms of a systemic allergic reaction develop.

SUMMER SAFETY

- Remember to bring plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Stay in the shade when possible to prevent heat stroke.
- Remember sunblock to protect your skin.
- Wear UV blocking sunglasses.
- Do not dig large holes in sand. It may collapse and bury you.

WATER SAFETY

- Don't swim when the waves are high.
- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD).
- Keep your children in sight at all times, and small children should be within reach when in the water.
- Watch for drop-offs and holes on the shoreline.
- Never swim alone.
- Don't swim near piers or man-made structures in the water.
- Be aware of water quality. Natural and man-made sources of contamination can affect water quality. If the water looks dirty, it probably is.
- Contact the park's info line for beach conditions: 219-395-1882.

WINTER SAFETY

Stay off the shelf ice!

- Walking on shelf ice is extremely hazardous.
- Dress in layers of loose-fitting clothes to prevent frostbite.
- Do not sled (except in designated areas, like the one at West Beach or state park).

NATIONAL PARK HIKING GUIDE

HIKE	HIKE LENGTH	HIKE TIME	TRAIL SURFACE	
EASY				
Calumet Dunes Trail	0.5 miles	20 minutes	Paved	
Great Marsh Trail	1.3 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt and grass with some gravel. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Heron Rookery Trail	3.3 miles	1.5 to 2 hours	Packed dirt and clay. Trail can be very slippery and muddy.	
Hobart Prairie Grove Trails	2.2 miles	1.5 hours	Packed dirt and clay. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Marquette Bike Trail Closed for improvements most of 2025	4.6 miles	30 minutes	Gravel	
Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): Center loop	0.9 miles	30 minutes	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand and accessible boardwalk.	
Pinhook Bog Trail (Ranger-led tours only)	0.9 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt. Section of floating boardwalk that submerges when walked on. Wear waterproof boots.	
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Trail	0.9 miles	45 minutes	Paved with some sections of boardwalk and one set of stairs.	
MODERATE				
Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm Trail: Inner Loop	1.1 miles	45 minutes	Packed soil with wood chips in places; several sets of stairs. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Dune Ridge Trail	0.7 miles	30 minutes to 1 hour	Mixture of loose sand and packed dirt. Some elevation changes.	
Glenwood Dunes Trails (Horseback riding allowed)	Less than 1 mile to 6.8 miles	Less than 1 hour to 4 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of sand or boardwalk. NO PETS*	
Little Calumet River and Mnoke Prairie Trails: Outer Loop (Bailly/ Chellberg)	3.4 miles	2.5 hours	Packed soil with wood chips in places; several sets of stairs. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): Beach trail	3.4 miles	2 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand. Some elevation changes.	
Tolleston Dunes Trail	2.9 miles	2 hours	Sand with some sections of packed soil, gravel, and boardwalk. Boardwalk can be submerged.	
Upland Trail (at Pinhook Bog)	2.1 miles	1.5 hours	Packed dirt. Trail can be very wet and muddy.	
MODERATE to RUGGED				
Cowles Bog Trail	4.7 miles	4 hours	Mixture of loose sand and packed dirt. Some elevation changes.	
Mount Baldy Beach Trail (Summit Trail CLOSED: Ranger-led tours only)	0.75 miles	1 hour	Packed dirt with sections of loose sand. Use caution when hiking to beach. Obey signs. Steep slope.	
West Beach Trails: Dune Succession (Loop 1): West Beach (Loop 2): Long Lake (Loop 3):	3-loop: 3.4 miles total 0.9 miles 1.2 miles 2.2 miles	45 minutes to 2.5 hours	Packed dirt with some sections of loose sand. Some elevation changes and long staircases on Dunes Succession Loop.	



Calumet Dunes Trail: Paved but slopes exceed ADA limits. Trail is wheelchair accessible with proper support. Restrooms are accessible. Great Marsh Trail: The main trail is not wheelchair accessible. There is a paved wheelchair accessible trail to an overlook of the marsh from the north parking lot. Hobart Prairie Grove Trails: The Oak Savannah Bike Trail (leading to the Hobart Prairie Grove Trail) is paved and wheelchair accessible. Paul H Douglas Trail (Miller Woods): Trails are not wheelchair accessible. The Paul H. Douglas Center, restrooms, and the walkway from the building to the marsh boardwalk and picnic tables are all wheelchair accessible.



ALL PETS: MUST be on a leash (6' or shorter). West Beach Trails: Pets are prohibited in the lifeguard swimming area in the summer. Glenwood Dunes Trails: Pets are prohibited on the equestrian portion of the trail for safety. Permitted elsewhere on a leash (6' or shorter). All pet excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of in trash receptacles.



Do Not Risk Your Life!
Enjoy shelf ice only from a safe distance.



Check local weather for rip currents. Stay dry when waves are high.



Wear Tick Repellent



Stay On Marked Trails



Maps Key

Beach Access	Fishing	Ranger Station	Road	Multi-use Trail
Bench	Food service	Restrooms	Train Tracks	Contour lines at 10ft intervals
Bike / Multi-use Trail	Hiking / Trailhead	Shelter	Wetlands	Introducing Contour Lines If you are unfamiliar with contour lines, a special feature is their ability to illustrate the shape of the terrain; therefore, giving a better representation of the natural physical features of the dunes. When the lines are close, the incline or decline is steeper as you travel along the trail.
Birding/Wildlife viewing	Horseback riding	Sheltered Picnic Area	Water	
Campground	Interpretive exhibit	Showers	National Park	
Canoe access	Parking	Stay on Trail	Non-Park Property	
Cross Country Skiing	Park Headquarters	Stairs	Parking Lot	
Emergency telephone	Picnic Area	Wheelchair Accessible	Trail	

Paul H. Douglas Trail (Miller Woods)

The Paul H. Douglas Trail in Miller Woods winds through several habitats including wetlands, globally rare black oak savanna, open dunes, and beach. The views of the lake and the dunes are incredible. The oak savanna's native grasses and wildflowers, including lupine, thrive in the sunlight and open forest floor. Please stay single file on the narrow trail to protect yourself from the abundant poison ivy and ticks along the trail edges as well as the fragile lupine habitat.

This featured hike is essentially an out-and-back trail. Starting from the Paul H. Douglas Center, take the trail north or counter-clockwise around the wetland complex. Look for wildlife including beavers. The trail will run west along the top of the wetland. At the trail junction, take a right and follow the trail to the north. The trail from this point is an out and back to the beach. The trail features beautiful scenery with small interdunal ponds nestled among oak savanna covered dunes teeming with wildflowers in the spring and summer.

Once you cross the bridge over the Grand Calumet Lagoon, the landscape changes dramatically into a world of towering sand dunes. The trail winds around and through the dunes all the way to the shore of Lake Michigan. After enjoying the lake, follow the trail back to the junction at the wetland complex. Follow the trail to the right along the wetland back to the Paul H. Douglas Center.

The trail surface is mostly sand with some sections of packed soil, gravel, or boardwalk. The hike will take longer than you think due to the loose footing of walking in the sand. The trail starts in relative shade but ends in the full sun. Please bring plenty of water, sun protection, and dress in layers. The weather on the beach can be dramatically colder or hotter than in the woods.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Paul H. Douglas Trail is a partnership between the National Park Service and the City of Gary, Indiana.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate, 3.4 miles to the beach and back, hike time of 2 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

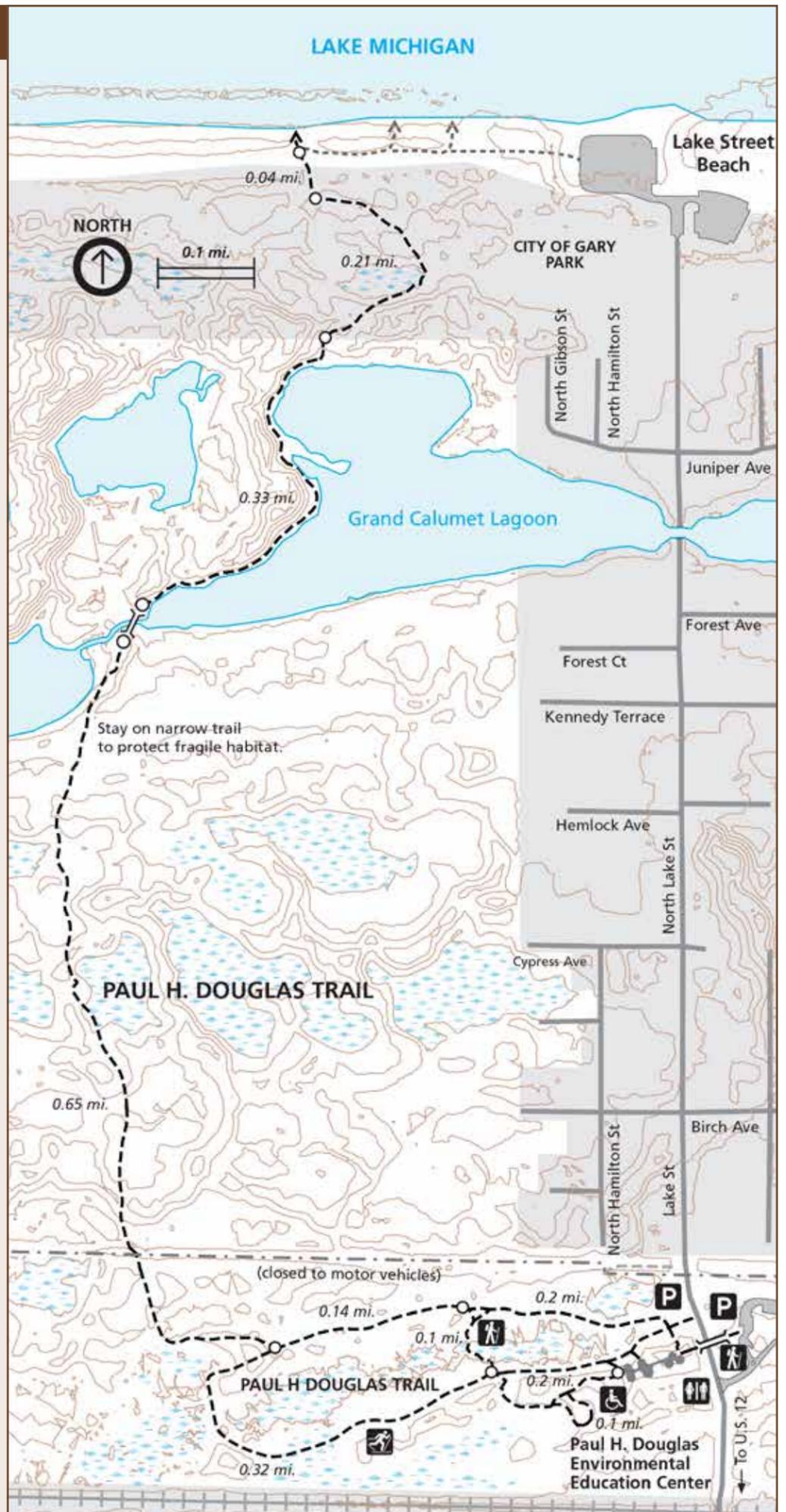
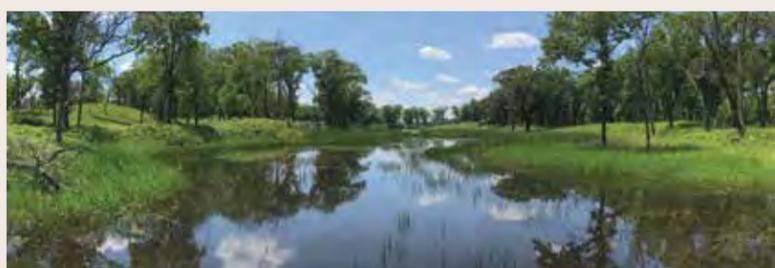
Fall Colors, Lake, River, Swimming, Views, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Dunes, and Lake Michigan

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
100 North Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.606466, -87.268527





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency call 1-800-PARKTIP (1-800-727-5847) or 911.

Hobart Woodland Trail

Hobart Prairie Grove features forested ravines and picturesque views of Lake George, a section of the Deep River watershed. The area includes an overlook that provides a scenic vantage point of the lake. The Oak Savannah trail runs through the Hobart Prairie Grove and is a great place for biking, pushing a stroller, or just hiking to relax and improve your health.

TRAIL FEATURES: Spring Flowers, Fall Colors, Lake, River, Wildlife

HIKE DETAILS: Easy, 2 miles round trip length, hike time 1.5 hours.

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

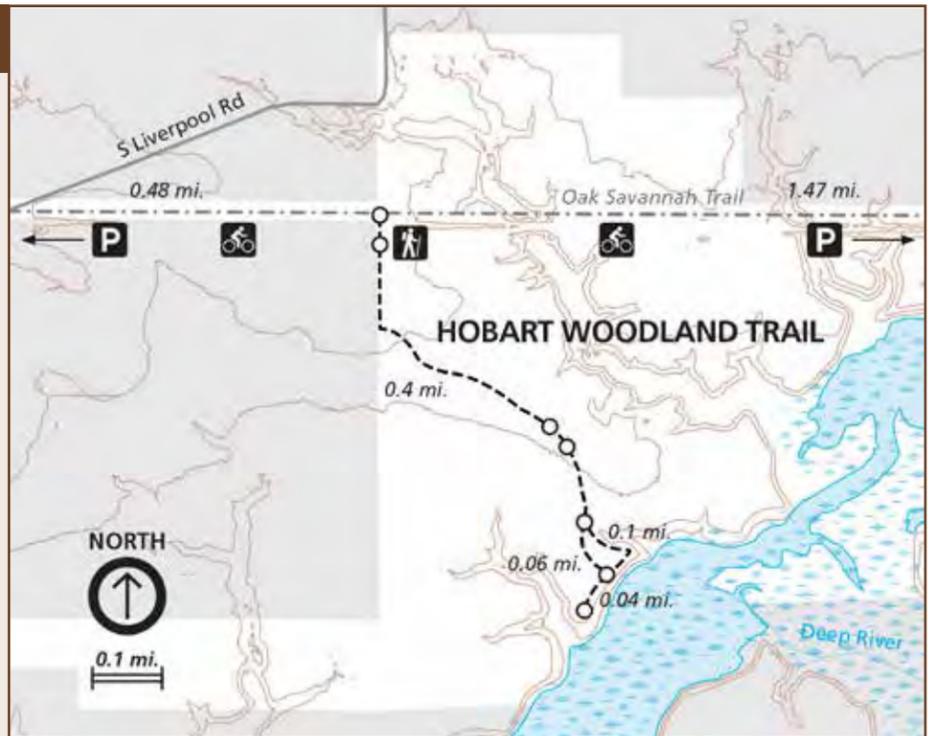
Main Lot (west end): Robinson Lake Park, 5227 South Liverpool Road, Hobart, IN 46342

Alternate Street Parking (east end): 851 South Wisconsin Street, Hobart, IN 46342

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main (west): 41.523898, -87.307101 (Decimal Degrees)

Alternate (east): 41.523683, -87.269201 (Decimal Degrees)



West Beach Trails

West Beach offers a great combination of hiking and relaxing at the beach. The trails are varied and encompass many habitats. There are great views from the top of the Dune Succession Trail stairs, a beautiful stand of jack pines north towards the lake, birding opportunities along Long Lake and secluded sections of forest. After hiking, relax and take a swim at the beach.

HIKE DETAILS:

3-loops: 3.8 miles. Dune Succession (Loop 1): 0.9 miles.

West Beach (Loop 2): 1.2 miles. Long Lake (Loop 3):

1.7 miles. Dunes Succession Hike: Rugged, 0.9 mile in length, hike time of 45 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Dunes, Lake Michigan, Swimming, Views, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Dune Succession, Diana's Dare, Birding

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

376 North County Line Road, Gary, IN 46403

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.622934, -87.207747 (Decimal Degrees)



PAUL KEMIEL



Tolleston Dunes Trail

This hike winds through varied habitats ranging from oak savanna to wetlands and you'll find plants such as prickly pear cactus, butterfly weed, and lupine.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate, 2.9 miles in length, hike time of 2 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Fall Colors, Wildflowers, Wildlife

GETTING THERE: Trailhead Parking Lots

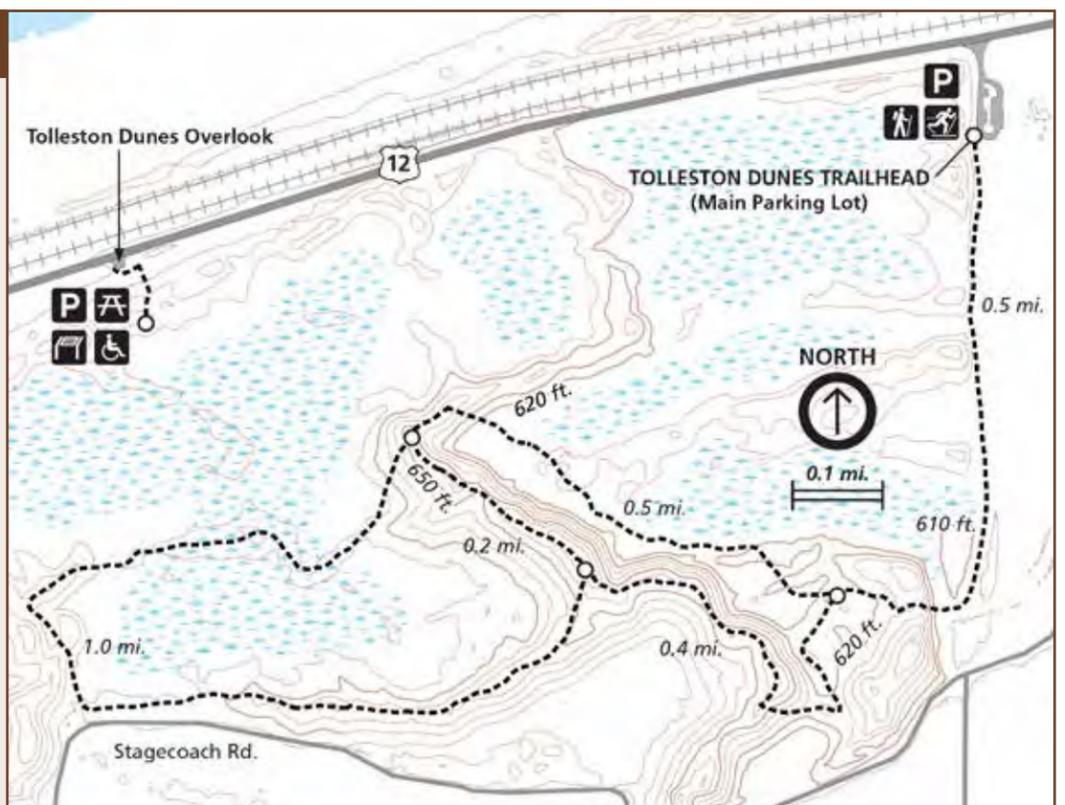
Main Lot: 5800 U.S. Highway 12, Ogden Dunes, IN 46368

Marsh Overlook Lot: 5634 U.S. Highway 12, Portage, IN 46368

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main: 41.615056, -87.192889 (Decimal Degrees)

Marsh Overlook: 41.613499, -87.206679 (Decimal Degrees)





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency call 1-800-PARKTIP (1-800-727-5847) or 911.

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Trail



This popular location is a great place to view the ever-changing seasons along Lake Michigan. It's an easy location to watch for migrating birds in the spring and summer, and observe shelf ice that forms along the beach edge in the winter. Visitors can enjoy easy access to the lakefront and trails that highlight dune succession. A 3,500 square foot public pavilion includes restrooms, a seasonal snack bar, and a glass walled classroom/meeting space. Short term leases are available at indu_permits@nps.gov.

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 0.9 miles round trip, hike time of 45 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:

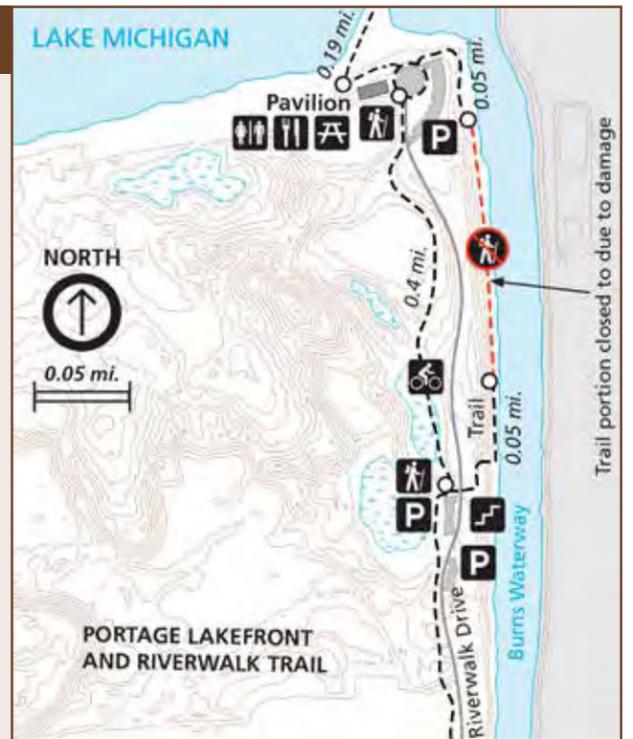
Lake Michigan, Views, Birding, Swimming, Fishing

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot
100 Riverwalk Road, Portage, IN 46368

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.630994, -87.178383 (Decimal Degrees)



Cowles Bog Trail

This hike highlights a National Natural Landmark designated because of its outstanding plant diversity.

HIKE DETAILS:

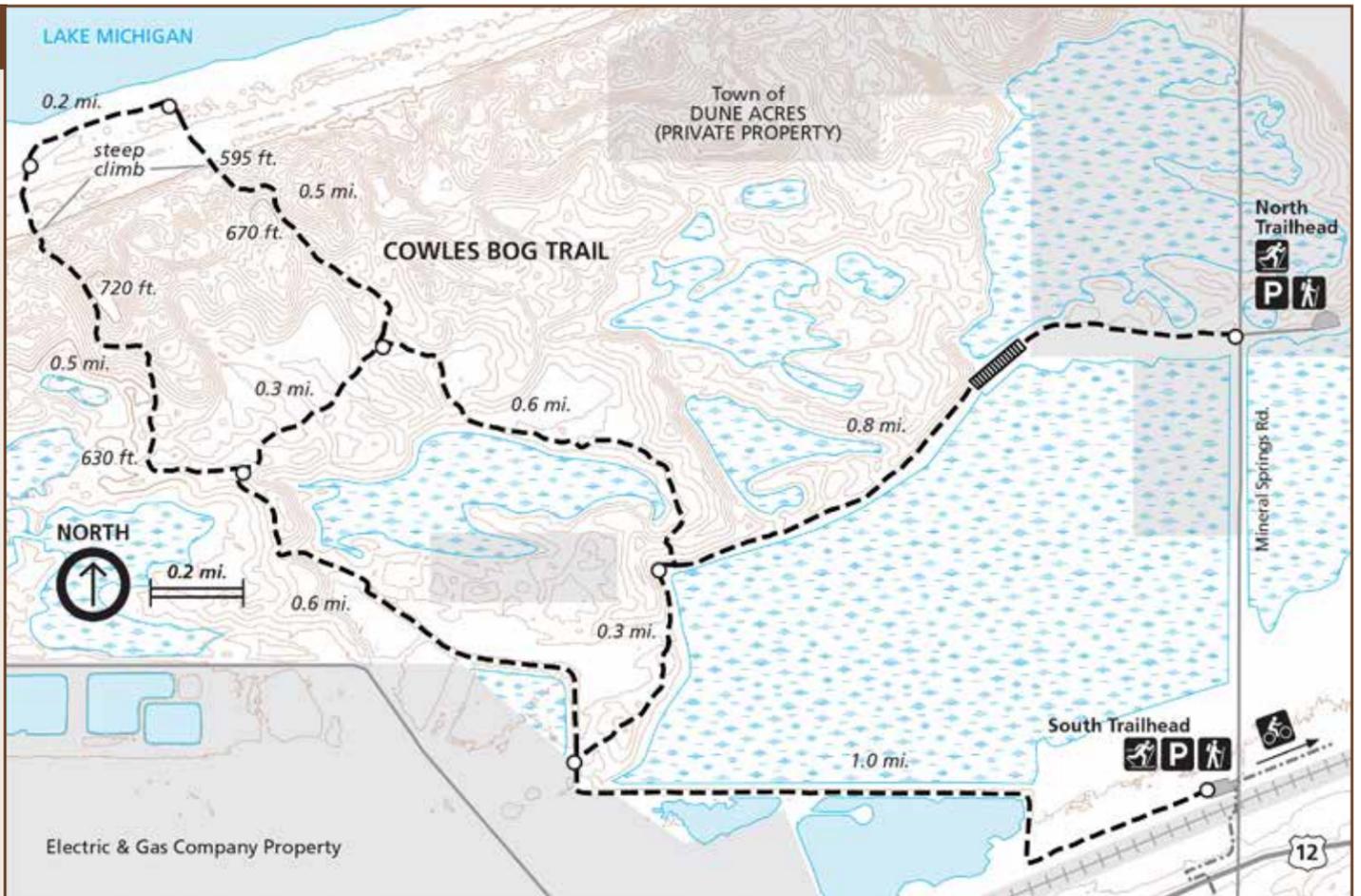
Moderate to rugged, 4.7 miles round trip, hike time of 4 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Spring Flowers, Dunes, Views, Wildlife, Lake Michigan

PARKING LOTS AND TRAILHEADS:

Limited parking available
North Parking - 1450 North Mineral Springs Rd., or
South Parking - 1184 North Mineral Springs Road, Dune Acres, IN 46304
North Trailhead: 41.645191, -87.084633 (Decimal Degrees)
South Trailhead: 41.636898, -87.087185 (Decimal Degrees)



Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm, Little Calumet River and Mnoké Prairie Trails

The Little Calumet River, Mnoké Prairie, Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm, and Bailly Cemetery trail system reveals the rich natural diversity that has drawn people to this area for over 10,000 years. Follow a stretch of the Little Calumet River, once a critical transportation route and explore Mnoké Prairie for a glimmer of pre-settlement grasslands. Explore the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm.

HIKE DETAILS:

Outer loop of Little Calumet River Trail and Bailly/Chellberg Trail. Easy to moderate, 3.4 miles in length, hike time of 2.5 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:

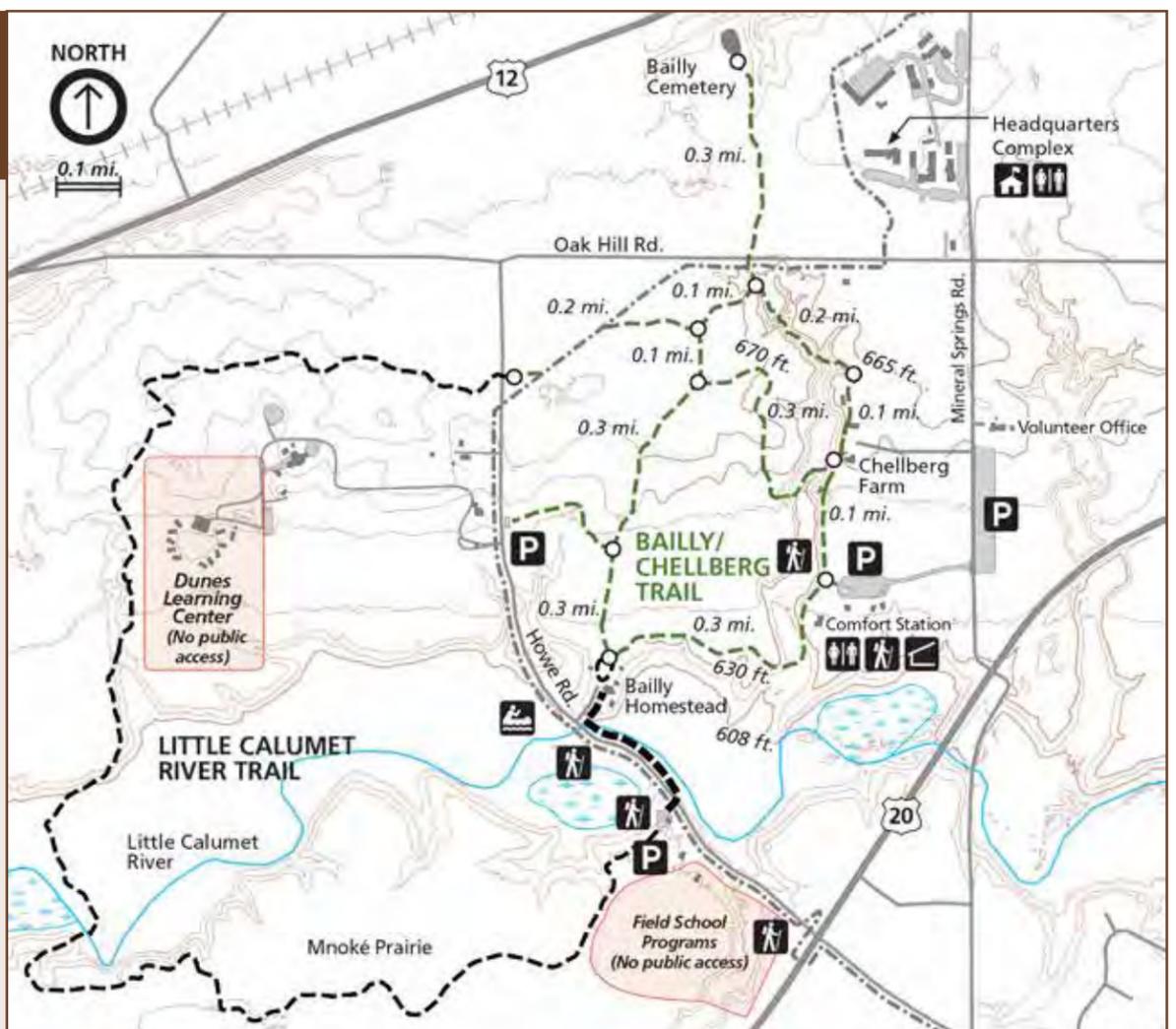
River Crossings, Historic Homes, Birding, Fall Colors, Wildflowers, Mnoké Prairie, Farm Animals, Spring Flowers, Ravines, Cemetery

GETTING THERE:

Bailly/Chellberg Trailhead Parking Lot
North of U.S. Highway 20 on Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.624679, -87.089502 (Decimal Degrees)





TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency call 1-800-PARKTIP (1-800-727-5847) or 911.

Glenwood Dunes Trails

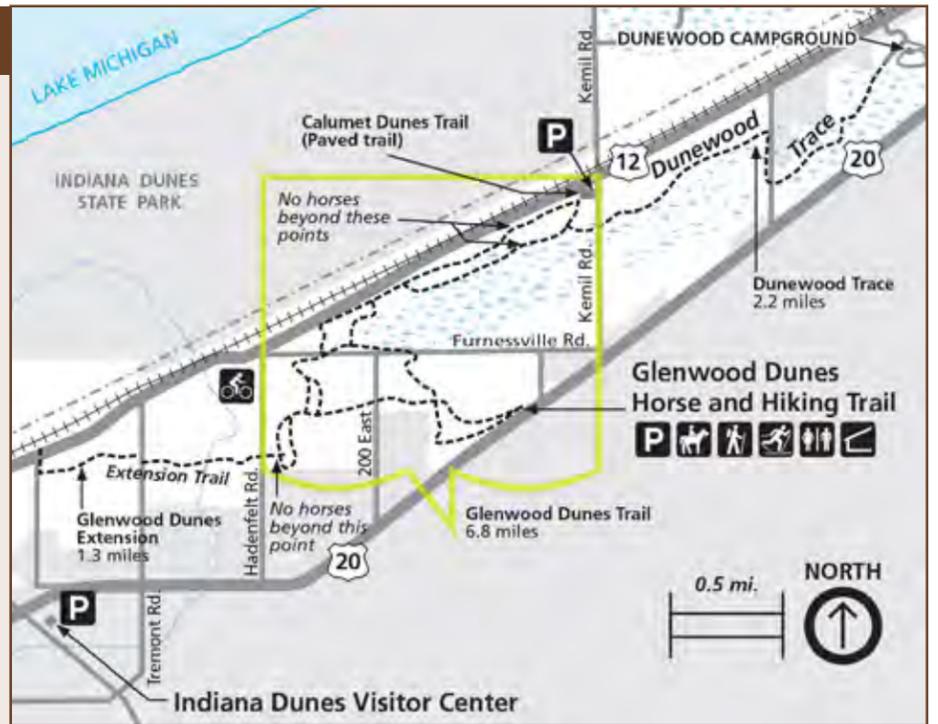
This extensive trail system features linked loops in mature hardwoods and is popular with hikers, runners, horseback riders and cross-country skiers. A paved trail can be accessed from the alternate lot.

HIKE DETAILS: Glenwood Dunes Trail
Moderate, 6.8 miles in length, hike time of 4 hours.

TRAIL FEATURES:
Fall Colors, Wildlife, Boardwalks, Wetlands, Birding, Woodlands

GETTING THERE:
Trailhead Parking Lot
Glenwood Dunes Lot (includes parking for horse trailers):
1475 North Brummitt Road, Chesterton, IN 46304
Calumet Dunes Lot (alternate): 1596 North Kemil Road (300E),
Chesterton, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:
Main: 41.648245, -87.015382 (Decimal Degrees)
Alternate: 41.661836, -87.010109 (Decimal Degrees)



Calumet Dunes Trail

This short hike on a paved trail features the Calumet Dunes Ridge, which was the shoreline of Lake Michigan over 12,000 years ago. This featured hike is a loop trail and is wheelchair accessible. The path is easy to follow counter-clockwise. Please be aware of trail junctions. The first two junctions are the north and south entrances to the Glenwood Dunes Trail system. Note that no pets are allowed on this portion of the Glenwood Dunes Trail. The last trail junction leads to the Dunewood Trace Campground Trail. The paved trail ends on the opposite side of the building from where you started. Walk around to the front of the building.

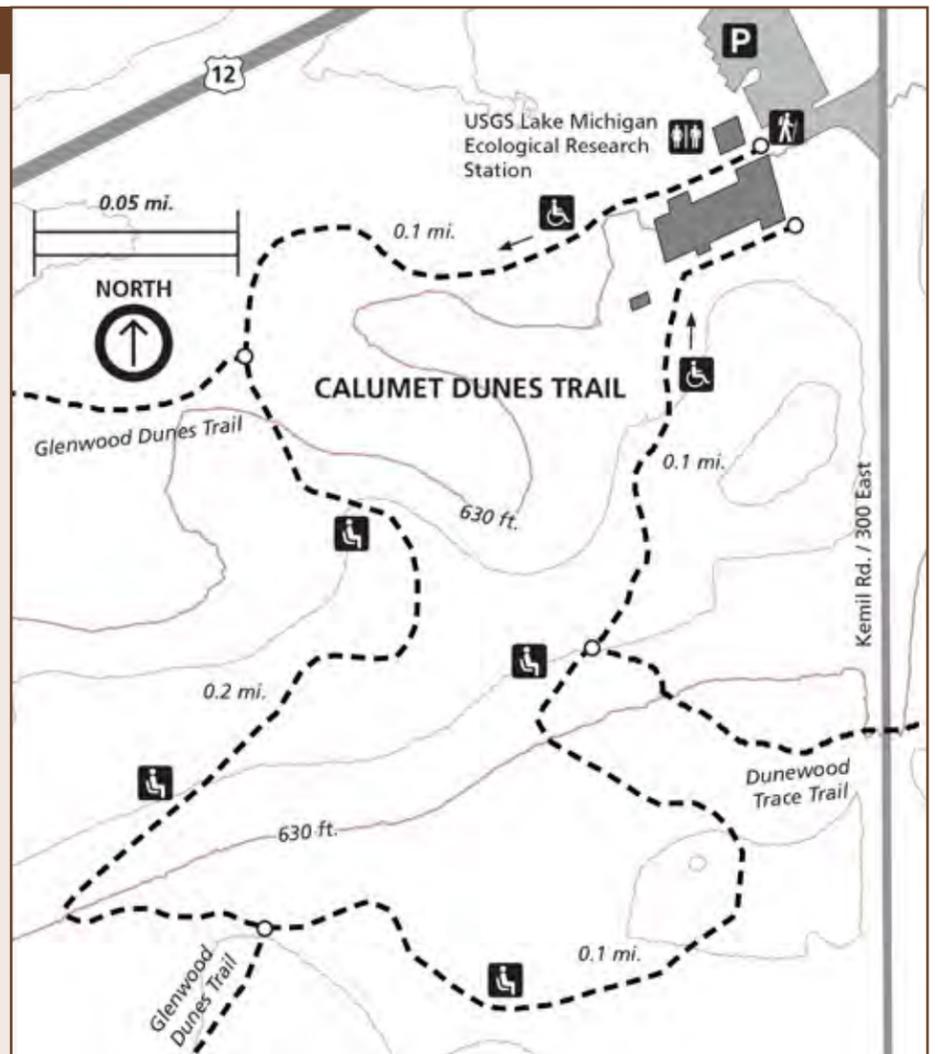
The trail is paved but slopes exceed ADA limits; however, it is still wheelchair accessible with proper support. The restrooms are accessible.

HIKE DETAILS:
Easy, 0.5 miles in length, hike time of 20 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:
Fall Colors, Wildlife, Forest, Wetlands

GETTING THERE:
Trailhead Parking Lot
1596 North Kemil Road or 300E, Chesterton, IN 46304 (Intersection of Kemil Road and U.S. Highway 12)
Note: Kemil Road is also called East State Park Rd north of U.S. Hwy 12.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:
41.661836, -87.010109 (Decimal Degrees)



Dune Ridge Trail

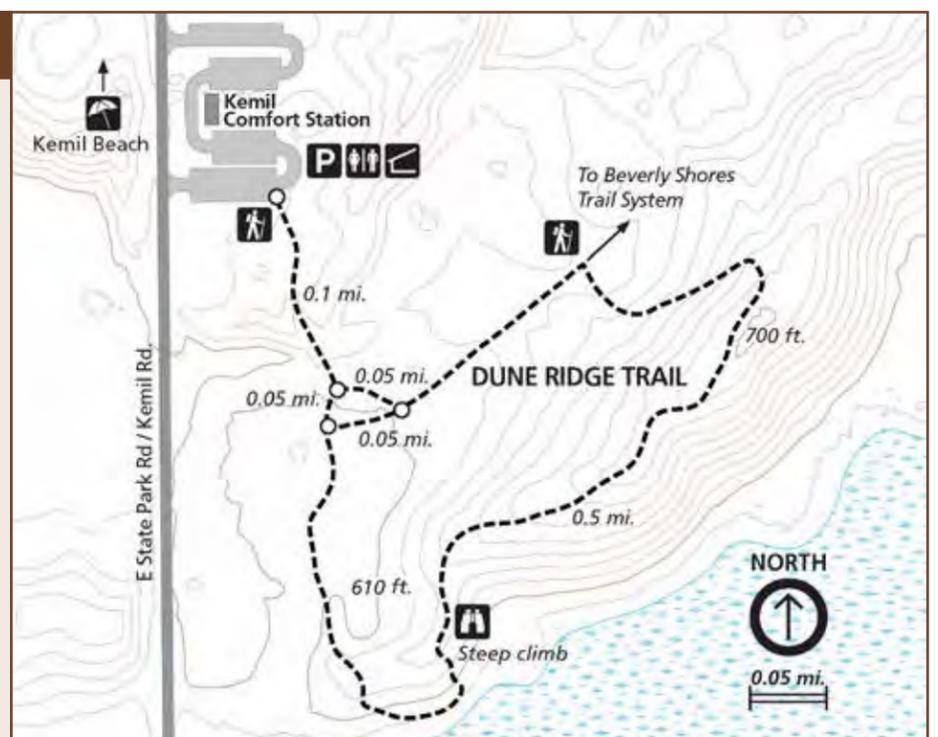
This hike offers stunning views of extensive wetlands, forests, and the Great Marsh, all south of a tall, forested dune. Few areas in the park showcase such diverse habitats in a short distance. Begin your "habitat adventure" at the southeast corner of the parking lot, passing through foredunes with pioneer plants like marram grass, little bluestem, and cottonwood trees, all adapted to the shifting sands. After your hike, enjoy swimming and other activities at Kemil Beach.

HIKE DETAILS:
Moderate, 0.7 miles in length, hike time of 30 minutes.

TRAIL FEATURES:
Great Marsh Overlook, Birding, Fall Colors, Wildflowers and Wildlife, Kemil Beach

GETTING THERE:
Trailhead Parking Lot
North of U.S. Highway 12 on East State Park/Kemil Road or 300E, Beverly Shores, IN 46301.
Note: East State Park Road is called Kemil Road to the south of U.S. Highway 12.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:
41.677357, -87.008950 (Decimal Degrees)



Looking for a better view of the birds?

Take your adventure to new birding heights at the Dune Ridge Trail overlook. Visitors enjoy ascending the dune ridge to relish the spectacular overhead views of the Great Marsh system from above.



TRAIL MAPS

In case of an emergency call 1-800-PARKTIP (1-800-727-5847) or 911.

Great Marsh Trail

This spectacular birding hike offers views of the largest wetland complex in the Lake Michigan watershed. During migration periods, the wetland is frequented by flocks of Sandhill Cranes and warblers. The trail also features a separate wheelchair-accessible paved path with quick access to an observation deck.

HIKE DETAILS:

Easy, 1.3 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Birding, Great Marsh Observation Deck, Wildlife, Wetland

GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lots

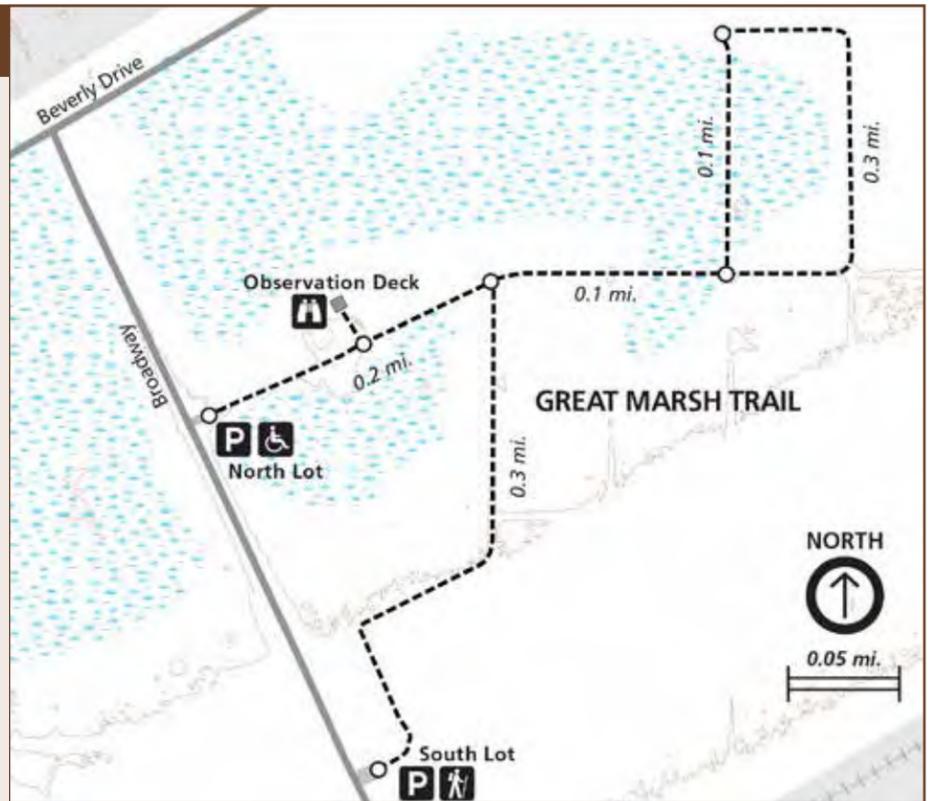
Both lots are north of U.S. Highway 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores, IN 46301

South lot is the main trailhead. North lot has one handicap and one regular parking spot.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

South Lot: 41.674825, -86.986607 (Decimal Degrees)

North Lot: 41.677522, -86.988220 (Decimal Degrees)



Heron Rookery Trail

HIKE DETAILS: Easy, 3.3 miles round trip length, hike time of 2 hours.

GETTING THERE: Parking Lots (No winter maintenance)

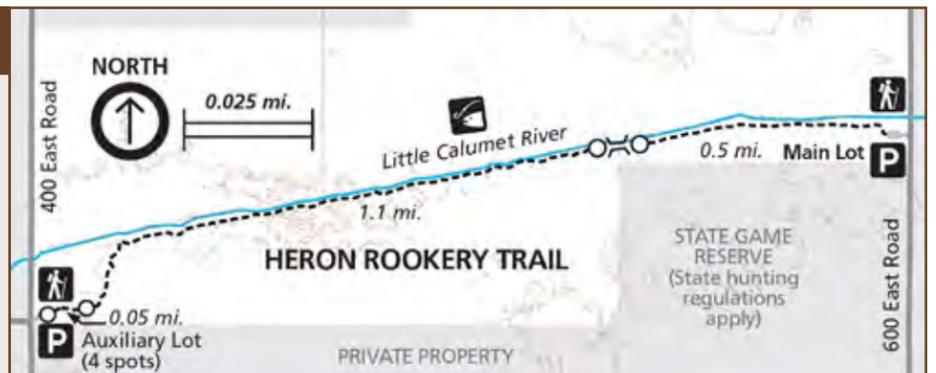
Main (east) Lot: 1336 600 East, Michigan City, IN 46360

Alternate (west) Lot: 1301 North 450 East, Chesterton, IN 46304

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

Main (East) Lot: 41.627043, -86.952446 (Decimal Degrees)

Auxiliary (West) Lot: 41.622502, -86.980227 (Decimal Degrees)



Mount Baldy Beach Trail

The Beach Trail hike (unrestricted access) is short hike with a steep climb down loose sand to the beach. Be sure to plan accordingly as the only way out is up the steep trail. Do not bring large cooler or other beach items as the climb back up from the beach is difficult.

HIKE DETAILS:

Moderate to rugged, 0.75 miles round trip length, hike time of 1 hour.

TRAIL FEATURES:

Views, Lake Michigan, Dunes

MUST SEE GEMS:

Views from the top of Mount Baldy (on ranger-led hikes only)

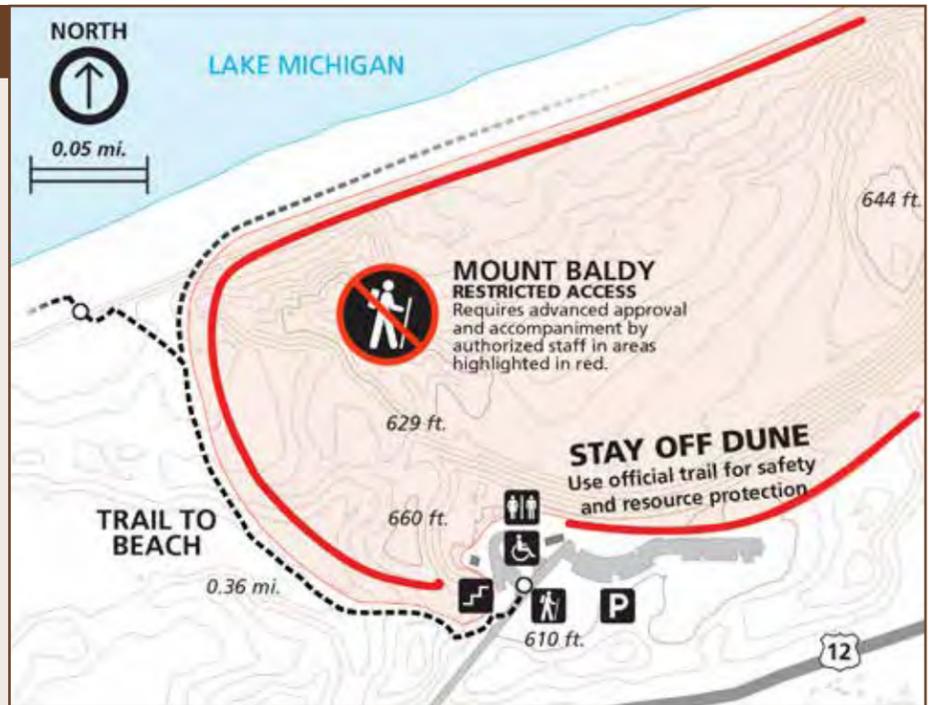
GETTING THERE:

Trailhead Parking Lot

101 Rice Street (U.S. Highway 12), Michigan City, IN 46360

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.706852, -86.929907 (Decimal Degrees)



Pinhook Bog / Upland Trail

The Pinhook Bog Trail system features two very different habitats, a rich beech and maple forest grows on top of a glacial moraine and a rare bog is found in nearby lowlands.

The Upland Trail is open to all visitors, while the bog and its trail are restricted to ranger-led hikes.

HIKE DETAILS:

Upland hike: Moderate, 2.1 miles in length, hike time of 1.5 hours.

Bog hike: Easy, 0.9 miles in length, hike time of 1 hour (restricted).

TRAIL FEATURES:

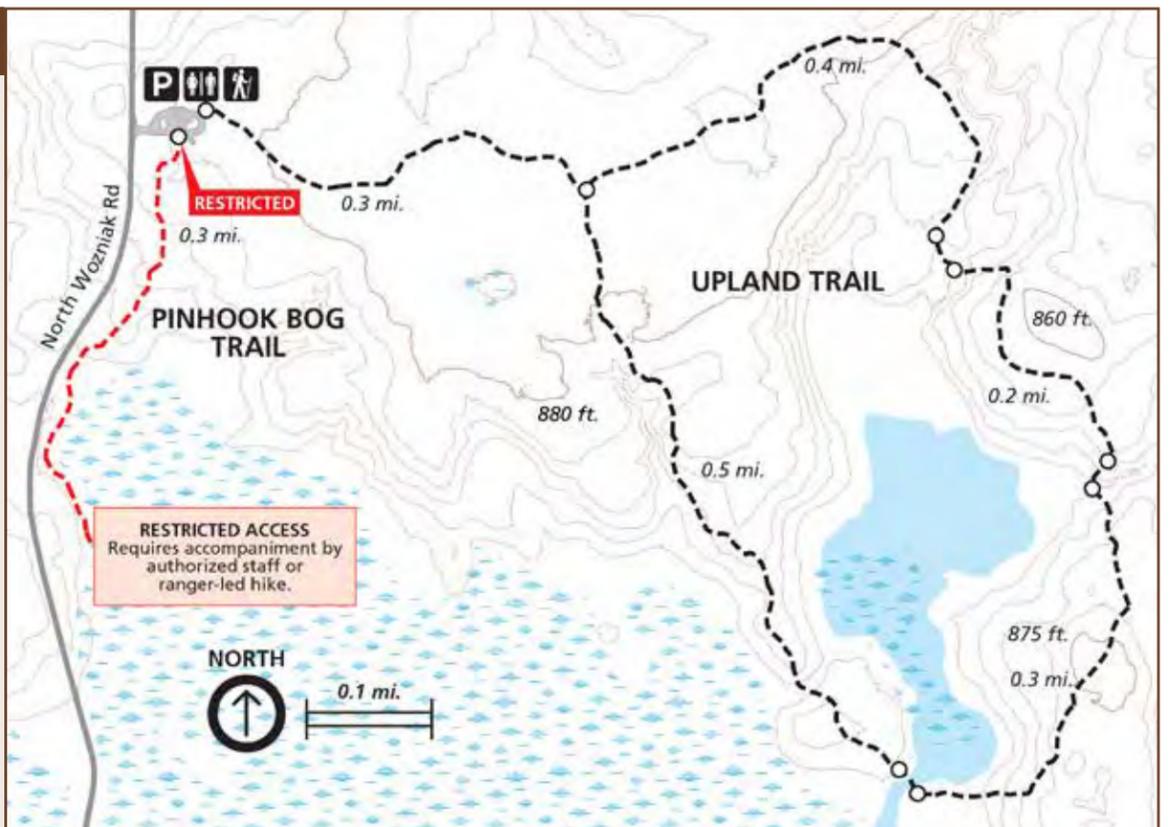
Unique Plants, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Bog (Restricted Access)

GETTING THERE: Parking Lot (No winter maintenance)

946 North Wozniak Road, LaPorte, IN 46360

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES:

41.621214, -86.850227 (Decimal Degrees)





National Park Campground Maps

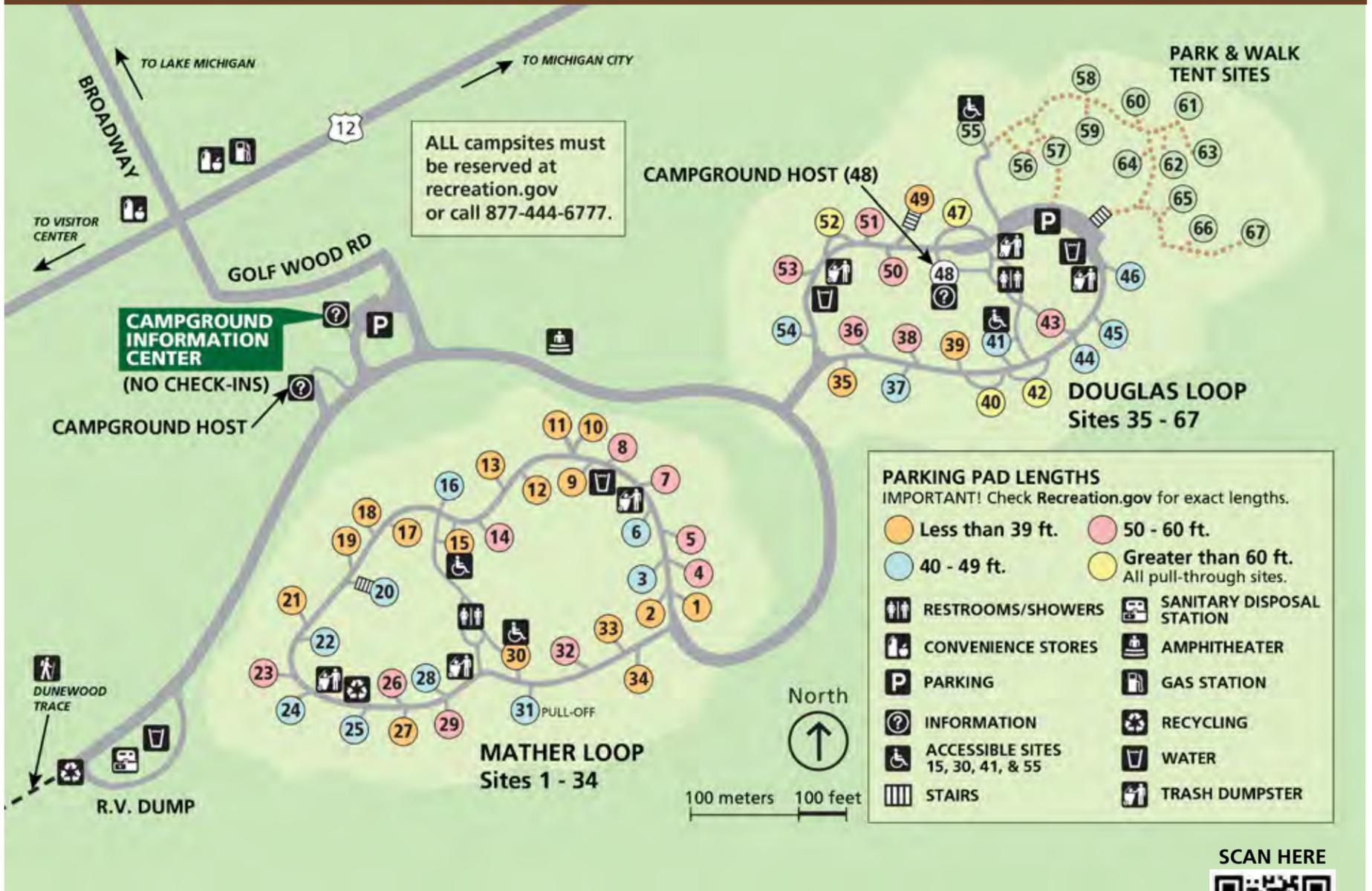
SCAN HERE



Dunewood Campground

ALL SITES REGISTER AT RECREATION.GOV

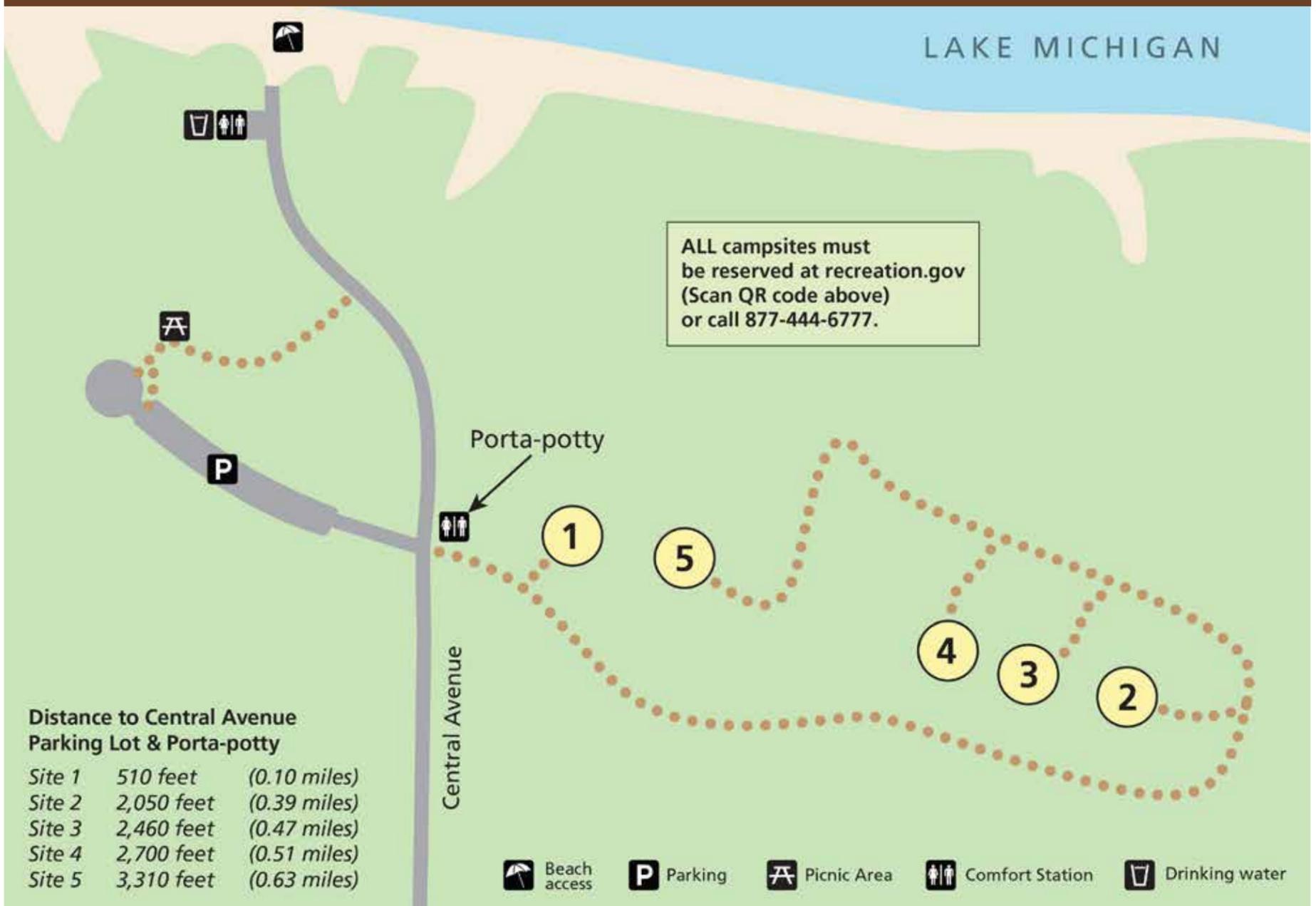
No First Come – First Serve or Walk-in Campsites Available.



SCAN HERE



Central Avenue Walk-in Campsites



Accessibility

Improving Accessibility

In collaboration with partners, the park has made significant strides in enhancing accessibility by offering improved walking routes and services for visitors of all abilities.

Whether you use a wheelchair, are hard of hearing, or have limitations with sight, we offer a variety of services and equipment to increase park accessibility for all visitors. These accessibility options ensure that everyone can experience and enjoy the park's diverse landscape and rich history. For questions or to check out one of the assistive devices listed below, call 219-395-1824.

- **Freedom Trax:** A motorized, joystick-operated device that allows wheelchair users to traverse rough terrain, gravel, grass, and sand. Available seasonally at the Douglas Center for use on portions of the Miller Woods Trail. To reserve, call 219-395-1824.
- **Youth All-Terrain Wheelchair:** Designed for rough trails, this wheelchair features an extended handle and rope for pushing or pulling. Available by reservation at the Douglas Center. To reserve, call 219-395-1824.
- **Zoom Chair:** A single-rider, motorized vehicle designed for adults. Suitable for use on portions of the Miller Woods Trail. Available at the Douglas Center. To reserve, call 219-395-1824.
- **Magic Mobility X8 Power Chair:** A motorized outdoor wheelchair designed to navigate sandy terrain, providing greater shoreline access at West Beach. Visitors can request its use at the entrance booth or from a lifeguard.
- **Beach Access Chairs:** Specially designed chairs with large wheels enable easy movement over sand and into the water. Two are available at West Beach during the summer season. Visitors can request them at the entrance booth or through a park lifeguard.
- **Blue Beach Mats:** Installed at Portage Lakefront and Lake View, these firm, non-slip mats create accessible pathways over the sand, improving access for visitors using wheelchairs, strollers, or mobility aids.
- **Closed Caption Park Film:** Can be viewed at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Douglas Center.
- **Audio-described Version of Park Film:** Can be heard at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Douglas Center.
- **Audio-described Version of Park Brochure:** Mobile app: Search UniDescription on both Apple and Android devices.

Great Trails and Accessible Views

The park offers a variety of accessible trails and scenic areas for visitors of all abilities:

- **Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk:** A cement walkway provide an accessible path with scenic views, ideal for birdwatching.
- **Paul H. Douglas Center:** A fully accessible trail that allows visitors to experience marsh areas, a picnic area, and a play zone.
- **West Beach:** A ramp leading down to the sand, with easy access to restrooms and picnic shelters.
- **Lake View:** Offers beautiful lake views and accessible picnic shelters for all visitors to enjoy. Blue beach mats are also available during the summer.
- **Dunes Kankakee Trail:** A fully accessible walking and biking path connecting the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to the Indiana Dunes State Park entrance. Parking is available at the Visitor Center.

These accessibility options ensure that all visitors can experience and enjoy the park's diverse landscapes safely and comfortably.

Equipment made possible in coordination with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Save the Dunes, and VOCART.



Audio Described Park Brochure



The National Park Service has created an audio version of Indiana Dunes National Park's official map and guide, making it accessible to visitors who have visual impairments and cannot read the printed version.

This audio description can be accessed by visiting the Audio Described Brochure webpage on the park's website or by downloading the UniDescription mobile app on both Apple and Android devices.

The apps provide park brochures in acoustic media, designed for people who are blind, visually impaired, print dyslexic, or who prefer learning through sound.

Audio files of the park's brochure are available for download as well.



To download the Unidescription app or to access the audio described brochure online, scan the QR code, or visit [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU)



Accessible Virtual Tours

Park Videos Online

Another accessible feature we offer is our virtual ranger led explorer hikes, located on our Virtual Tour page. These hiking videos are closed captioned and include audio descriptions. Each video also has an educational component to help prospective visitors and students understand and prepare for what each location has in store.

For instance, Mount Baldy is a large dune that's continually on the move and has a great beach to enjoy, but the hike to the beach is more difficult. Instead, you can watch or listen to a ranger describe fascinating facts about Mount Baldy.



Support Your Park

Volunteer

Volunteering is an American tradition that has made many contributions to communities throughout the country. Indiana Dunes National Park's volunteer program offers a variety of program opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities to serve alongside park employees. Simply contact us and we will find your place in the Park.



Opportunities Include:

- Artist-In-Residence
- Bark Rangers
- Corporate & Business
- Campground Host
- Citizen Science
- Drop-In Volunteering
- Railroad Crew
- River Crew
- Scout Programs
- Seasonal Volunteers
- Service Learning
- Special Events
- The Chellberg Farm Crew
- Trail Crew

Contact Us:

Office: 891 N Mineral Springs Rd, Porter, IN 46304
 Hours: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Phone: (219) 221-7098
 Email: indu_volunteer@nps.gov

For more information, scan the QR code seen here or visit our volunteer page at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU).



Donations

Donations (tax-deductible) will be used to fund maintenance, resource management and educational projects at the national park.

Programs that bring children into parks, or parks to children, or ensure we know how to keep the plants, animals, and waters of the parks healthy are invigorated through the interest of people like you!



To donate please visit our website or scan the QR code here.



Work with Us

We fill positions in many fields, including interpretation, maintenance, administration, resource management, education and law enforcement. Some jobs are office-oriented, others focus on working with the public, and some involve working outdoors. Each job performs a vital function in helping to provide visitors with an opportunity to enjoy a unique experience, while working hard to preserve natural and cultural resources for future generations.



For more information, scan the QR code here.



Affiliate Organizations



Dunes Learning Center

Since 1998 they have operated a residential environmental education facility within the national park on the historic Camp Good Fellow property. They offer education programs for schools and youth organizations that range from in-depth day trips to week-long summer camps. DunesLearningCenter.org



Eastern National

They operate in museum stores at more than 170 units of the National Park Service. Each store is a reflection and an extension of the interpretive themes of its location, making each store unique. They supply custom merchandise and educational products that enhance visitor experiences. EasternNational.org



Join a Park Philanthropic Partner

Philanthropic organizations partner with national parks, nationwide. From raising funds to protect or rehabilitate resources and maintain visitor facilities, to enhancing educational and recreational opportunities, hosting special programs and events, mobilizing volunteers and interns, and accepting donations to support research and restoration projects, there are countless ways that philanthropic partners benefit parks.

At Indiana Dunes National Park, we have two philanthropic partners (see below). There are many ways you can participate in the activities, initiatives, and events of park philanthropic partners. Please visit their websites to discover how you can get involved!



Friends of Indiana Dunes

As their name says, they are the state and national park's primary "Friends" group, providing donations and support for a variety of programs and initiatives. Their members also volunteer hundreds of hours of time to assist with all kinds of projects in both parks. DuneFriends.org



Save the Dunes

Since 1952, Save the Dunes has been protecting the Indiana dunes, Lake Michigan, and the surrounding natural areas for the health and vitality of the environment, and the people who live, work, and recreate in Northwest Indiana. SaveDunes.org



