

Visit us online at www.stateparks.IN.gov

What's New at Indiana State Parks in 2015

Enjoy this snapshot of some of the work we are doing to prepare for your visits in 2015. There are many other small projects and events not listed that also help manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources, and history of Indiana's state park system.



Memories made naturally.

You won't see a lot of new construction or major infrastructure overhauls, although there are some projects completed or underway. We have more than 2,000 buildings, 700 miles of trails, 631 hotel/lodge rooms, 75 marinas, 16 swimming pools, 15 beaches, almost 8,400 campsites, more than 200 shelters, 160 or so playgrounds and 149 cabins in Indiana State Parks. That's a lot of maintenance, and most of our time and energy has been focused on that basic facility care.

We have wonderful partners and volunteers who help us with projects. Our Friends groups contributed thousands of dollars and hours for projects and events. We have creative and dedicated employees who stretch the dollars that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program.

Our goal is to provide you with a great experience during every visit—to help you and your family and friends make memories naturally. Your Indiana State Parks are a great value, both in cost and as great places to get healthy, relax, and support local communities with tourism and jobs.

Create some great stories and memories for the future. Wrap yourself in thousands of acres of trees, prairies, wetlands and wildlife and slow down the pace of your daily, busy life for a few days. Get outside with your family and friends—you'll be glad you did. See you on the trail in 2015.

Brookville/Whitewater Memorial Complex

- Several cabins have new mattresses, tables, couches, stoves, refrigerators and chairs.
- Men's restroom upgrades included removal of the gang/group showers in Mounds SRA campground.
- Roof repairs are underway at the Whitewater Memorial beach house, to be completed by early summer.
- A design is in progress for paving campsites at Whitewater Memorial family campground.

Brown County State Park

- Six duplex cabins are under construction at Abe Martin Lodge with completion anticipated in July. Each cabin will have a spacious bedroom, living room and bathroom, and will sleep up to six people.
- A new shelter house, built with a bequest from the estate of Mary Platt Oxford and funds raised by the Friends of Brown County State Park, is nearing completion. It will provide a covered outdoor setting for interpretive programs and special events. The Building Trades class from Brown County High School participated in construction.
- Dead and dying tulip and ash trees were removed from the campground and roadsides.

Charlestown State Park

- New interpretive exhibits have been installed to tell the story of Rose Island, a historic amusement park that is part of the property. The trail is under construction, and the site will be open by midsummer.
- The roof on the warehouse adjacent to the maintenance shop was repaired.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

- An upgrade to the park's water treatment plant includes softened drinking water for the parks cabins, campground and beach bath house.
- A new all-terrain motorized wheel chair housed at the park's nature center can be used on Trail 3 to provide access to a wooded area. Funds for the chair were donated by Indiana Trail 100 (www.Indianatrail100.com), which has a 100-mile race in the park.
- Multiple sewage lift stations were replaced in the family cabin area this spring.
- Rewiring of the campground will begin after Labor Day, 2015.

Clifty Falls State Park

- Brough's Tunnel will reopen to visitors on a seasonal basis. A new interpretive sign will provide information about bats and White-nosed Syndrome.
- "Clifty Clubhouse," a play area for kids, will open near Clifty Inn.
- The Nature Center features some new exhibits. The wildlife observation window will be renovated later this summer as an Eagle Scout project.

Falls of the Ohio State Park

- A leaking roof on the interpretive center has been completely replaced.
- Completely new exhibits will be open to the public in the early fall of 2015, thanks to the Falls of the Ohio Foundation, our fundraising partner.

Fort Harrison State Park

- The third section of the Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park will open in the summer of 2015.
- Camp Creek Trail rehabilitation will be completed this season.
- A new shelter near the Walnut Grove (Walnut Shelter) is available for use.
- The gazebo at Hawthorne Lake, used for weddings and photography, was completely renovated in 2014.

Hardy Lake

- Water fountains were replaced in Shale Bluff Campground, and campground shower facilities were improved.
- The raptor display area at the property office is being renovated.
- Several campsites were removed in the primitive campground to provide more space per site and improve the camping experience.
- Information displays were upgraded at trail head locations.

Harmonie State Park

- The small pond near the campground has a new fishing platform and benches.
- Cherry Hill shelter was repaired and has reopened to the public.
- New service windows will be open at the pool concession stand.
- Motion lights were installed at campground comfort stations to improve nighttime visibility.
- The cabins have new living room chairs and light fixtures.

Indiana Dunes State Park

- The accessible ramp for the Bird Observation Tower will be completed this year.
- Thirty-four acres of oak savanna have been restored along Trails 9 and 10.
- A new service area pole barn has been constructed for park equipment storage.

- The restoration of the historic pavilion has begun. Limited concessions and new restrooms should be available during the summer beach season.
- New brush cutters and a skid steer loader were purchased with a grant for park resource management efforts.
- A grant from Save the Dunes will allow new trees to be planted in the campground this year.
- A new distribution field was installed at the wastewater treatment plant.

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)

- A new playground has been constructed at the Hilltop Shelter.
- The nature center has a new entrance.
- Some minor repairs and “sprucing up” has occurred in the campground restrooms.
- Dead and dying tulip trees were removed from the modern campground. Some replanting will occur this year.

Lincoln State Park

- The nature center has a new large white oak tree slice to illustrate tree rings and Lincoln history.
- New windows have been installed in five of the family cabins.
- A new playground is being installed in the Gobbler’s Run Campground this season.

McCormick’s Creek State Park

- The camp store, formerly near the pool, has been relocated to the recreation center near Canyon Inn.
- Improvements are underway to the nature center wildlife viewing area.
- Trail 4 is being slightly re-routed near Westbrook Shelter to bypass an area of heavy erosion.
- The recreation center near Canyon Inn will be open with activities for all park visitors this summer.
- Dead and dying tulip trees were removed from the modern campground and along roadsides. Some new trees have been planted, but more are needed.

Mississinewa Lake

- The beach house/concession building and the beach shelter have new roofs.
- More campground hosts (7 instead of 3) will be available to help with campground maintenance and other projects. Four full hook-up sites were added for their use.
- Two hundred and fifty ash trees were removed from the Miami Recreation Area, and 32 new hardwood trees were planted in the campground to begin to rebuild the shade.
- Four pit toilets were renovated.
- A new parking area was added in the seasonal campground.

Monroe Lake

- Restroom upgrades included removal of the gang/group showers.
- A new kayak, paddle board, and wind surfing concession will be available at the Fairfax Beach from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- There are several new things to do at the Paynetown Activity Center such as "small world" play sets, puzzle table for adults and more games/toys in the kids' corner.
- A new 40-slip dock was installed at the marina in Paynetown SRA.

Mounds State Park

- The new Friends Shelter, funded by Friends of Mounds State Park, is ready for use.
- New gutter downspout drainage lines were installed at the Bronnenberg Home, and additional restoration work continues.
- Ten wood duck boxes and 10 bat houses were installed at the property.
- All ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer were removed from the campground.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

- Twenty horsemen's campsites have new hitching rails, picnic tables and fire rings.
- The Class A Modern Campground has a new gatehouse under construction.
- New horse hitching rails and kiosks were added as an Eagle Scout project at Hickory Hollow Nature Center.
- Some exhibits moved from Falls of the Ohio have been installed at Hickory Hollow Nature Center.
- A Recreational Trails Program grant is allowing continued work on Tulip Valley and Breeden Ridge multi-use trails for mountain biking. Winter maintenance has been performed on horse, hiking and bike trails.
- Wyandotte Group Camp work continues, with restroom improvements, decks on sleeping lodges and a new kitchen on the way.

Ouabache State Park

- Indiana's second Civilian Conservation Corps Worker Statue was installed, thanks to support from the Friends of Ouabache State Park.
- New water main valves will be installed throughout the park.
- The north bison feeding building will be replaced this season.
- Conditions on Kunkel Lake continue to improve for fishing after it was drained in late 2013 to restore habitat.

Patoka Lake

- New tile and partitions were added to campground restrooms.
- The Patoka Lake Visitor Center has been renamed the Patoka Lake Nature Center.
- Firewood, ice, and other necessities will be sold in the camp store, which will be managed by the property this year.
- Another 1/3 mile of the bike trail got new concrete, which completes restoration of the two-mile section between the campground and the beach. Only four miles left to go!

Prophetstown State Park

- The Farm, the non-profit located within the park, has new leadership and new programs.
- Both the State and National Corn Husking Contests will take place in the park this fall.
- Repairs are underway to the roof and ventilation in the council house at the Native American Village.
- More outdoor furniture and a new concession operator will be available at the aquatic center.
- Three acres of wetland restoration are in progress, funded as a highway mitigation project.
- Work begins this fall to add a 2.5-mile paved extension of the multi-use trail to the Tippecanoe River.
- Mining of sand and gravel continues that will result in a new lake with a new park road around its south side.

Pokagon State Park

- The small historic cabins in the group camp are being restored; Cabins 1 and 2 will be completed before the recreation season begins.
- The water lines at Trine SRA are being upgraded.
- The Potawatomi Inn has new stairs from the parking lots.
- A new backup generator has been purchased for the Potawatomi Inn well house.
- The nature center has new restrooms.
- The historic CCC entrance gatehouse will be transformed in to a mini museum dedicated to the CCC at Pokagon and should be open later this summer.

Potato Creek State Park

- The Tulip Poplar shelter has been rehabilitated.
- Vault toilets & bath house shower areas have been renovated.
- The boat rental piers have been re-decked.
- The family campground dump station area has been re-graded.
- More than 90 dead or dying ash trees have been removed from the family campground, and fundraising is in progress for new trees, spearheaded by the Friends of Potato Creek.
- Electrical upgrades are underway for many sites in the family campground.

Raccoon SRA (Cecil M. Harden Lake)

- A new accessible multi-use trail is under construction from the campground to the beach.
- Multiple shelters have received new roofs, and several docks have been repaired.
- The Songbird Campground playground has been refurbished.
- Several gravel picnic table pads have been installed in Raccoon Run Campground.

Salamonie Lake

- The beach fishing pier has new floats, new decking, and a new access ramp.
- A new shelter house with a group grill has been built at the beach picnic area.
- The main gatehouse has a fresh coat of paint.
- Thirty campsites in the modern campground have been dressed with a new stone top coat.
- New perches were constructed for the birds at the raptor center.

Shakamak State Park

- The men's restrooms in the Class A campground have redesigned showers.
- Some park roads have received a new coat of asphalt.
- The West Shelter Picnic Area restoration is complete, including new roofs on the buildings, renovation of the historic restroom and restoration of the four poster shelter.

Spring Mill State Park

- The newly located and remodeled restroom in the Pioneer Village should be open for Memorial Day.
- Dredging of Spring Mill Lake is underway, and the work should be completed by early summer.
- A new feature at the park swimming pool will provide shade and a place to enjoy snacks.

Summit Lake State Park

- Section A of the modern campground was rewired.
- Campsites were renumbered to make site set-up easier for guests.
- A new wastewater treatment facility is in place and operating, and the plant was gutted and rehabilitated.
- A new campground gatehouse is installed and ready to use.
- New boats have been purchased for the boat rental.
- The main park road to the campground has been resurfaced.
- Campground bathhouses will be rehabilitated this spring including new toilet partitions.

Tippecanoe River State Park

- A second overlook deck was added along the river by the Friends of Tippecanoe River State Park.
- Two walking bridges were replaced on Trail 4.
- Historic lighting and electrical upgrades were added at the River Shelter thanks to the Friends.
- Two new interpretive signs were installed at the waterfowl area, thanks to a donation.
- The Friends installed feeders and a bench at the bird viewing area near the waterfowl wetland.

Turkey Run/Shades State Park

- An electrical upgrade to the campground means that every site will have its own pedestal with 20, 30 or 50 amp service.
- The Lieber Memorial, which honors Col. Richard Lieber and is the burial site for he and his wife, Emma, is undergoing restoration and will be completed in June.
- The Lusk Home kitchen restoration plan is finished and fundraising is underway to do the work.
- The south end of the Narrows Covered Bridge was raised to its previous level and is now open.

Versailles State Park

- New trailheads/trailhead kiosks have been installed for all three hiking trails, and new signage has been installed along property roads.
- The CCC-built fireplace in the Versailles Group Camp Recreation Hall has been rehabilitated.
- Trail reroutes were planned and completed for the Orchard Trail and Old Growth Forest Trail.
- The nature center has been painted, and new aquarium walls have been installed.
- New bulletin boards have been installed throughout the park.
- The Versailles Group Camp has 60 new mattresses.
- The main gate house and park office have been repainted.
- Construction continues on a new horsemen's campground.