

# INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

1600 North 25 East • Chesterton, IN 46304-1142 • (219) 926-1952  
2,182 acres Established 1925

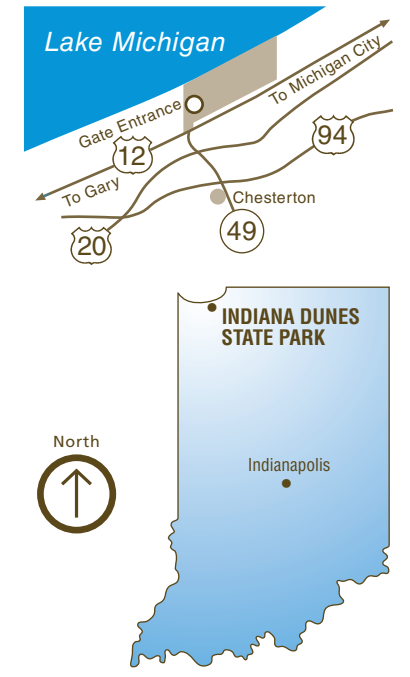
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited except in designated areas.
- Maps and information available at park gatehouse.

Lake Michigan can be dangerous.  
For your safety, swim in guarded areas only.  
Pets are strictly prohibited on Swimming Beach.

J.D. MARSHALL  
UNDERWATER  
PRESERVE  
100 acres

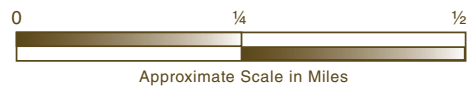
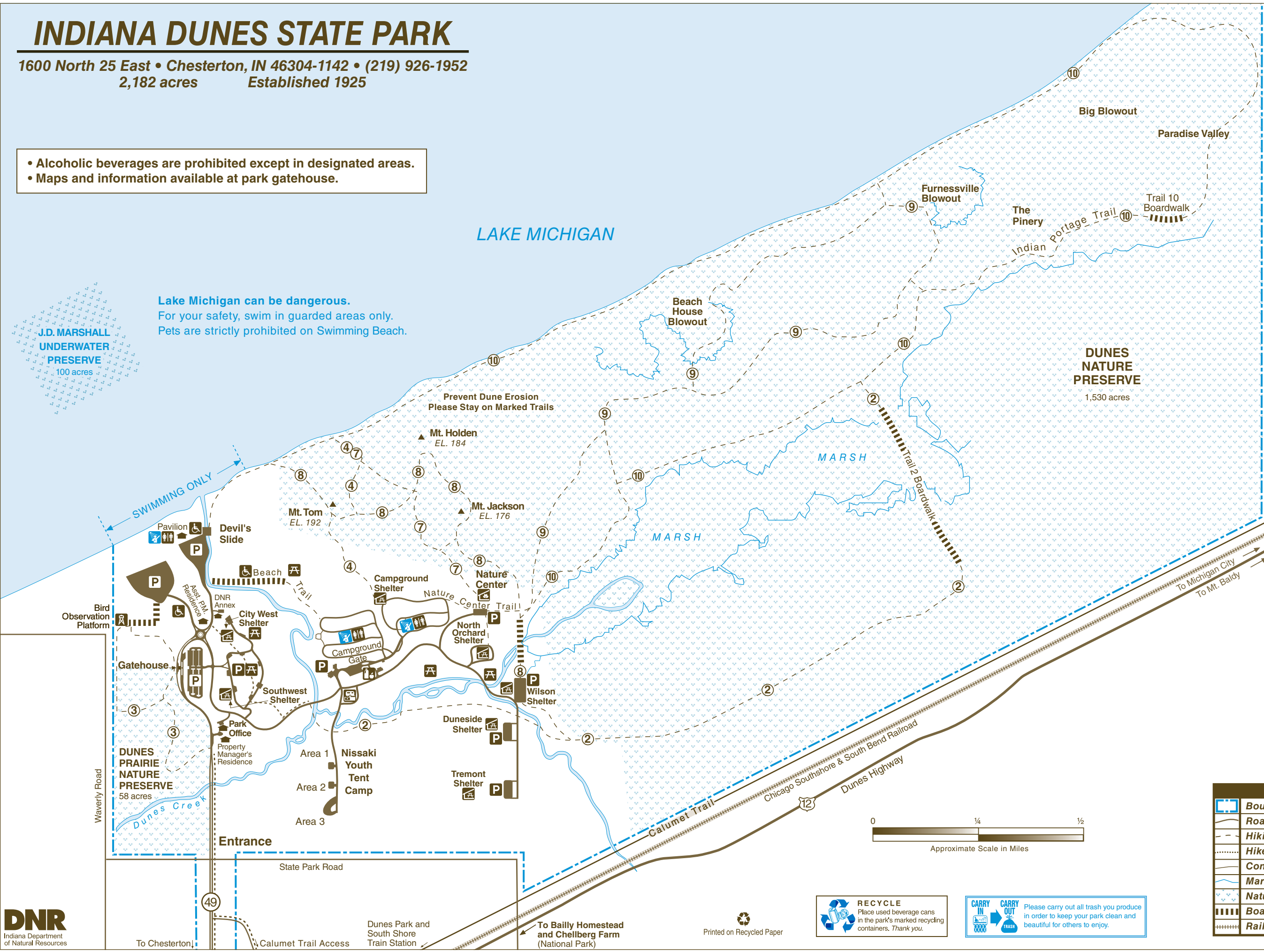
**INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK**  
It should be noted that one of the purposes for the park is to protect and preserve this rare landscape. Many sensitive plants and animals live on the dunes and are easily affected by erosion caused by foot traffic and other activities. Hiking in areas other than marked trails or designated areas is prohibited.

## LOCATION MAP



TRAIL TABLE		
Trail mileage is approximate.		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
2	3	Easy
3	1	Moderate
4	.75	Moderate
7	1.1	Moderate
8	1.5	Rugged
9	3.75	Rugged
10	5.5	Moderate

LEGEND	
	Boundary
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Hike/Bike Trail
	Connecting Trail
	Marsh Area
	Nature Preserve
	Boardwalk
	Railroad
	Accessible
	Parking
	Comfort Station
	Camp Store
	Picnic Area
	Shelter
	Dump Station
	Observation Platform
	Nature Center



## THE INDIANA DUNES

Visitors can enjoy Indiana Dunes State Park in a wide variety of ways. A campground, many picnic shelters and picnic areas, more than 16 miles of hiking trails, a swimming beach, and the Nature Center are available for visitors' use and are operated with visitor safety in mind.

During the summer season, a beach pavilion provides shelter, restrooms with outside showers only, a snack bar, and gift shop.

Dunes Nature Preserve, encompassing 1,530 acres and located within the boundaries of the state park, provides visitors with an opportunity to explore pristine and unique landscapes.

Indiana Dunes State Park features a wide variety of habitats, including beach, sand dunes, black oak forest, wooded wetlands, and a button-bush marsh. Together, these areas contain some of the most diverse flora and fauna in the Midwest. Botanists from across the country enjoy studying the unusual collection of plant life. In fact, it was here that Henry Cowles, known to many as the "father of ecology" did his landmark studies of succession in the early 1900s. As a result of his work, Indiana Dunes became known as "the birthplace of ecology."

The dunes provide an opportunity to explore an exciting and ever-changing landscape. In several areas, huge "living" or "moving" dunes are slowly being blown inland, burying forests as they go. A prime example can be seen from Trail 9.

Other interesting features include "tree graveyards" (places where forests have been buried by sand and then, more recently, re-exposed by wind erosion). "Tree graveyards" can be seen in Big Blowout, near Trail 10.

The Indiana Dunes area also is renowned throughout the Midwest for its birding. Visit the Nature Center to ask about good birding locations.

Indiana Dunes State Park is surrounded by Indiana Dunes National Park, a federally administered park comprising approximately 15,000 acres. For more information about the National Park, write: Indiana Dunes National Park, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter, IN 46304; or call (219) 926-7561.

## THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

### Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**BIRDING**—Excellent spring and fall migration opportunities. See Nature Center for current sightings.

**CAMPING**—Campground has two comfort stations that are equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. 140 campsites with 50 amp. service can accommodate camping structures up to 50 feet long. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**CONCESSION & CAMPGROUND GROCERY**—Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS**—Ski trails are provided for people with their own equipment. Ski rental is not available.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or by calling (219) 926-1390.

**NATURE CENTER**—Natural and cultural history displays, wildlife observation room, library and audio visual presentations are available.

**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and shelters. Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

**REFRESHMENT FACILITIES**—Fast-food service and gift shop are available at the beach pavilion.

**SWIMMING**—Swimming permitted in designated area when lifeguard on duty. Free beach. Restrooms and beach open from Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day. Clothing is required.

**YOUTH TENT CAMPING**—For organized youth groups under adult supervision in designated areas. Advance reservations required. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

## DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

**Potato Creek State Park**—boating, boat ramp, bridle trails, fishing, ice fishing, interpretive service, interpretive center, hiking trails, mountain bike, playground, camping, bike and boat rental, swimming, wildlife watching

**Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve**—1 mile hike trail and parking

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision. No youth groups permitted in the family campground. Campers must be 18 to register for a campsite.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All-terrain vehicles are prohibited in the park.
- Metal detectors are allowed on the beach from September to May, with written permission from the property manager.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at property office.

## FRIENDS OF INDIANA DUNES

Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc., fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the dunes by sponsoring special events and educational programs. For information on membership and upcoming events, contact:

**FRIENDS OF  
Indiana Dunes**

P.O. Box 166,  
Beverly Shores, IN 46301  
StateParks.IN.gov/2980.htm  
(Click on the "Activities" tab.)

## CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Call: **1-866-6campIN** (1-866-622-6746)  
Online: **camp.IN.gov**

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone.

Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371)  
Online: **IndianalInns.com**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Indiana Dunes State Park  
1600 N. C.R. 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304-1142

Call: (219) 926-1952  
Online: [on.IN.gov/indianadunessp](http://on.IN.gov/indianadunessp)

## SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

[@INDnrstateparksandreservoirs](https://www.facebook.com/INDnrstateparksandreservoirs) [@indianadnr](https://www.instagram.com/indianadnr) [@INDNRstateparks](https://twitter.com/INDNRstateparks)

See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

**OUTDOOR INDIANA** Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit [OutdoorIndiana.org](http://OutdoorIndiana.org) or call **317-233-3046**.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

## DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
<b>Trail 2</b>	3 miles	Easy
The best trail for early spring flowers and ferns. Climax forest is used for cross-country skiing during the winter season.		
<b>Trail 3</b>	.75 miles	Moderate
Provides an opportunity to view succession in dunes area. Excellent for late spring wildflowers, including prickly pear cactus.		
<b>Trail 4</b>	.75 miles	Moderate
Goes through dunes covered with black oak forest.		
<b>Trail 7</b>	1.1 miles	Moderate
Similar to Trail 4. Most direct route from Nature Center to beach.		
<b>Trail 8</b>	1.5 miles	Rugged
Goes over the tops of the three highest dunes of the Indiana Dunes.		
<b>Trail 9</b>	3.75 miles	Rugged
Provides best representative view of the dunes. Good view of lake.		
<b>Trail 10</b>	5.5 miles	Moderate
Hikers are rewarded by stands of white pine and a "tree graveyard" in Big Blowout. A good morning hike.		

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.  
ALWAYS BRING ENOUGH WATER.**

## CALUMET TRAIL

The Calumet Trail is a 9.2-mile trail designed for bicycling, jogging, hiking and cross-country skiing. It lies adjacent to Indiana Dunes State Park and passes through Indiana Dunes National Park, providing a link to several points of interest.

The Calumet Trail was developed on land leased from the Northern Indiana Public Service Company. It lies within the company's utility corridor, and was developed with the assistance of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company and the National Park Service.

For a list of park events, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov)

**DNR** Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

INDIANA  
DUNES  
STATE PARK



Indiana Dunes State Park means primitive, beautiful, historic and amazing landscape, unique in the Hoosier state.

With more than 3 miles of beautiful beach along Lake Michigan's southern shore, the park's 2,182 acres are located at the north end of State Road 49 in Porter County.

In the early 1900s, scientists, recreationists and nature enthusiasts, recognizing the value and potential of the area, fought to have the region preserved. As a result, in 1925, the state park was established. This is a special place. We hope you'll take the time to explore its many fascinating features.

All alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the boundaries of Indiana Dunes State Park except in designated areas. Fines or arrest could occur for violations.

stateparks.IN.gov