



Summer 2013 - Vol. 34 No. 1

Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Preserve, restore, and protect the outstanding ecological and biological diversity along with the geological features that characterize the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Provide access for a large diverse population to experience natural, scenic open spaces and recreational, scientific, historical features, and inspirational, and educational opportunities.

Contact Information

ADDRESS
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road,
Porter, IN 46304
(GPS - N41.6336 W87.0544)

PHONE
219-926-7561 visitor information

E-MAIL
indu_communications@nps.gov

WEBSITE
www.nps.gov/indu

TWITTER
http://twitter.com/indianadunesnl

1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)
To report emergencies, criminal activities, or suspicious activity.

In This Issue

Page 2	Ranger Guided Programs
Page 3	Special Programs and Events, Stewardship Days, and Trip Planning
Page 4&5	Park Updates and "Follow the Right Crowd!"
Page 6	Safety and Parking Information
Page 7	FAQs
Page 8	Park Map



Printed on Recycled Paper

Nature in My Neighborhood Campaign Launched

by Costa Dillon, Superintendent

Inspiration. Education. Recreation. These three words form the core mission that Congress assigned to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore through our enabling legislation:

"...to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public certain portions of the Indiana Dunes and other areas of scenic, scientific, and historic interest and recreational value in the State of Indiana."

This April, we unveiled the new *Nature in My Neighborhood* campaign, creating three opportunities for your inspiration, education, and recreation.

Inspiration Through Play

The new Nature Play Zone, adjacent to the park's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, opened on April 27 to help inspire generations of children to love nature and the outdoors. In other parts of the national lakeshore, digging holes and moving natural objects is not allowed. In this specially designated area, children are allowed free exploration of the dune and the forest. You won't find swings or slides here. Instead, you'll find logs, rocks, trees, and sand to freely manipulate and play with. There is a small sun shade and seating pavilion, with a porous hard surface to make it easier for strollers.

Researchers and doctors are calling for more outdoor play for children to help fight high obesity rates, and to balance the amount of time spent in front of computer and TV screens. In the Nature Play Zone, children



can build with logs, dig in the dirt, forge their own paths, or just lay back and watch the birds. It is their special place to experience and develop critical thinking and life skills through play. This opportunity is unique for most national parks, and we are excited to share it with visitors and community members.

Distance Learning Education

The national lakeshore has a strong education program with more than 10,000 students attending park programs each year. Now the park can broadcast its education programs to an even larger audience via the internet. The park purchased a portable distance learning system with a generous donation from the Dunes National Park Association and its contributors: NIPSCO, Walmart, and the Lawicki family. Educators and researchers will broadcast from park field locations where scientists may be testing water quality or monitoring Karner blue butterflies, and transmit these experiences over the internet to students who cannot take a field trip to the park. These interactive programs will allow students to ask questions and have dialogue with scientists and park rangers in real time.

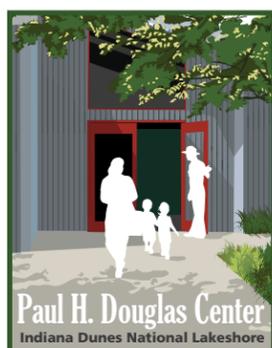
Recreation In Partnership

Working with the City of Gary and its development plans for Marquette Park, the National Park Service has extended the Miller Woods Trail to connect with the Marquette Park trail system. This new trail between the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and the beach provides a look at one of the hidden treasures of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - the Marquette lagoons and the rare oak savannas of Miller Woods.

We invite you and your family to join us for inspiration, education, and recreation at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Nature Play Zone is open from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m. seven days a week in the summer and 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday in winter. Explore the new Miller Woods trail with a ranger on Saturdays this summer at 1:30 p.m. and watch for red-headed woodpeckers and beavers in the lagoons. Visit the park's education web page at www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers to learn how your class can get involved with the new distance learning program. Explore the fifteen miles of beach or over forty miles of trails, and find your own inspiration at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

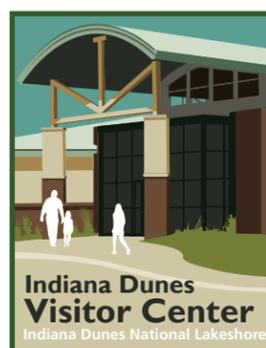
Park Information

Unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.



Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Located on 100 N. Lake St. Miller, 46403, Indiana. Open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. (Winter: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Sat.) GPS: N41.6061 W87.2678



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center

Located on SR 49, between U.S. Hwy. 20 and Interstate 94 near Chesterton, Indiana. Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the summer and 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the winter. GPS: N41.6336 W87.0544



Ranger Guided Programs

	Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Daily	Junior Rangers	Ask a ranger to help you select the free Junior Ranger or Junior Explorer program that best fits your visit. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up materials at the Visitor Center or Douglas Center, download them at www.nps.gov/indu/forkids , or ask a ranger.	Anytime – Self-Guided	Pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	Every Day is Family Day at the Douglas Center	Enjoy hands-on family activities in the park's west end visitor center, especially the new Nature Play Zone, where unstructured play in nature is the tradition. Help feed the center's resident turtles or fish or join a ranger for a hike in Miller Woods.	June-September 9:00 am – 5:00 pm everyday (Closed on Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day)	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Weekends	Park Focus Programs	Throughout the year, park staff will host special programs focusing on park resources, hot topics in research, new environmental films, or interesting guest speakers. The topics change, but the location remains the same. Check the park's website or call the Douglas Center for specific program dates at 219-395-1821.	June – September Saturday & Sunday: 1:00pm – 3:00pm October – May Saturday Only: 1:00pm – 3:00pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Friday	Music Heritage Series	Local musicians, <i>Save the Tunes</i> , help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes using instruments like the hurdy gurdy and dulcimer.	May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	Bike the Porter Brickyard Trail	Join a ranger for a bike tour of portions of the new Porter Brickyard Trail and the Calumet Bike Trail. Learn how the dunes have been an important transportation corridor as you enjoy the scenic ride.	June 14 – August 16 (Except July 5) 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Mnoké Prairie parking lot
	Bailly Homestead Open House	Tour the historic homestead of a French Canadian trader who moved to Indiana in 1822 to develop Baillytown and discovered things don't always work out as planned.	June 14 – August 16 (Except July 5) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Bailly Homestead
	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike	Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger at Mount Baldy and learn about the threats faced by this famous dune and what you can do to help protect it.	June 14, June 28, August 2 and August 9 June: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm August: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Mount Baldy
	Firefly Walk	Join a ranger to learn all about fireflies while you view their spectacular evening show.	July 12 and July 26 only 8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Bailly/Chellberg parking lot
Saturday	Spring Wildflower Hike	Take a leisurely hike and enjoy displays of spring wildflowers in the national lakeshore.	May 4 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Heron Rookery's east parking lot
	Campground Program	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the incredible diversity of park resources and how fire plays an important part in keeping the park healthy.	June 16 – September 1 (no program June 29 & July 6) June: 8:30 – 9:30 pm July: 8:00 – 9:00 pm Aug.-Sept.: 7:30 – 8:30 pm	Dunewood Campground Amphitheater
	Junior Wildland Firefighter Program	Meet the park's fire crew and hear about their jobs and firefighting equipment. Learn how they use fire as a tool to protect the park diversity. After this hands-on program, children will receive their own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and Junior Wildland Firefighter patch.	Campground Amphitheater June 8, July 13, August 10, & Sept. 7 10:00 am – 11:00 am West Beach Contact Station June 22, July 27 & August 24 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	See Date and Times
	Chellberg Farm Open House	Tour the Chellberg Farmhouse and learn about the lives of early Duneland farm families.	June 15 – August 24 (Except July 6) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
	Fall Colors Hike	Hike with a ranger to enjoy the last of the fall colors and learn how wildlife prepares for the coming scarcity of winter.	October 26 only 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Kemil Beach parking lot
Sunday	Kids Fun at the Visitor Center	Join a ranger in the activity room for puppet shows, stories, and fun.	Every Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	Miller Woods Hike	Take an afternoon ranger-led stroll through Miller Woods. The length of this hike can vary from one-half mile to three miles (if we hike all the way to Lake Michigan). Call 219-395-1821 for details of the week's hike.	June 9 - August 25 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	Pinhook Bog Open House	Take a self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants. Allow one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog.	June 16 – August 25 (Except July 7) 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog parking lot

Additional programs may be available. Ask a ranger or check www.nps.gov/indu for updates. Programs subject to change without notice.



Special Programs and Events

Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Midsummer Celebration	Celebrate the longest day of the year and learn about the traditions of the Swedish immigrants at Chellberg Farm. Enjoy the music, dance, and food associated with this special day.	June 22 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
Summer Solstice Evening Concert	Enjoy the end of the longest day of the year with an early evening concert at Chellberg Farm. This outdoor concert features the band Trillium who performs an energetic array of traditional American music including, folk, ragtime, and bluegrass.	June 22 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Chellberg Farm
Our Duneland Heritage	Explore the Chellberg Farm during this open house hosted by a ranger and see traditional craft or farming demonstrations.	July 20, August 17, & September 21 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
Talking Landscapes	Join Author Paula McHugh and Illustrator Harold Neulieb for a program on their favorite places in the Dunes. After the program, they'll do a book signing for "Talking Landscapes: Indiana Dunes Poems."	Saturday Aug. 3 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Celebrate Ecology 1913 - 2013	Help us honor the legacy of ecological discovery that Henry Chandler Cowles influenced when he led a group of international scientists through the dunes a century ago.	Saturday Aug. 3	Various times and locations. Call 219-395-1882
Persied Meteor Shower	Join a ranger for a spectacular evening light show courtesy of this annual meteor shower. There is a \$6 per vehicle fee at West Beach.	August 11 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	West Beach
Coastal Clean-up Day	Join park staff and volunteers to help clean a portion of our Lake Michigan shoreline. Gloves and bags will be provided. Call the information desk at 219-395-1882 to learn more and find out how to sign up to help.	September 21 Time to be determined.	Locations to be determined
Century of Progress Homes Tour	Join National Park Service rangers for a one-hour tour (fee required) of five historic homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. These limited tours are offered by reservation only. Call 219-395-1882 for more information.	October 19 8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Meet at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot.
Holiday Traditions in the Dunes	Enjoy live holiday music and dance, tour two historic homes decked out in their holiday finest, let the kids make some holiday crafts, and sample some traditional holiday treats. You don't have to get chilled thanks to a free shuttle bus that runs between Chellberg Farm and the Bailly Homestead.	December 7 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Locations: Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Douglas Center, Bailly Homestead, and Chellberg Farm

Stewardship and Volunteer Days

Planting an Heirloom Garden	Please help us get the Chellberg Farm's garden off to a good start this spring. We'll be doing everything from pulling weeds to planting seeds. Meet at Chellberg Farm.	May 18 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Chellberg Farm Garden
Saving Mount Baldy	Help remove invasive species in the Mount Baldy area. Lend a hand to help improve "Your Neighborhood National Park" during this volunteer opportunity at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.	June 15 & November 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Mount Baldy parking lot
Removing Invasive Plants	Lend a hand at helping to care for your local national park. Activities may include removing invasive species, planting native flowers, or other work depending on the conditions of the day. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided.	July 20 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at the flagpole (Park Headquarters)
Bailly Cemetery Clean-up	Join a ranger to spruce up the grounds of the historic Bailly Cemetery. Work gloves will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring bug repellent.	August 17 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at the flagpole (Park Headquarters)
Public Lands Day	In honor of National Public Lands Day, help remove invasive species that are attacking national lakeshore wetlands. Work gloves will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring bug repellent.	September 28 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bailly/Chellberg parking lot
Harvesting the Prairie	Join a ranger and help collect seeds from this tall grass prairie that will be used to restore additional prairie lands throughout the national lakeshore.	October 12 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Mnoké Prairie parking lot

Trip Planning



2hrs

If you only have one – two hours:

- Explore the beach at one of the eight beach access points along the 15 miles of shoreline.
- Stroll the Great Marsh Trail and possibly add birds to your life list. Over 270 species have been spotted at the national lakeshore, making this a birdwatcher's paradise.
- Stop by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and let the kids explore the activity room while you view exhibits or the park video.

If you have half a day:

- Simply relax along the lakefront. Even on the busiest days you can find a quiet spot along the fifteen miles of beach.
- Take a driving tour of some of the park's historic structures. Drive along Lakefront Drive and view the 1933 World's Fair Homes, then travel west and take a short walk on the trail to the Bailly Homestead or Chellberg Farm.
- Bring the family to the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education for free activities and visit the new Nature Play Zone.



1/2 Day

If you have one – two days:

- If you're an experienced paddler, see the dunes from Lake Michigan by kayaking the Lake Michigan Water Trail. Fifteen miles of the trail's 75 miles run along the park's shoreline.
- Enjoy a night at Dunewood Campground and experience the natural nightlife of the dunes. During the summer, join a ranger around the amphitheater's campfire for a Saturday evening program.
- Hike, bike, or even hoof it through the park. With 45 miles of hiking trails, you can spend days just exploring the park's diverse beauty on your own two feet. Bring a bike to explore even more of the park on quiet back roads or a new section of the Porter Brickyard Bike Trail. If you have your own horse, ride the Glennwood Trail and get a new perspective on the park.



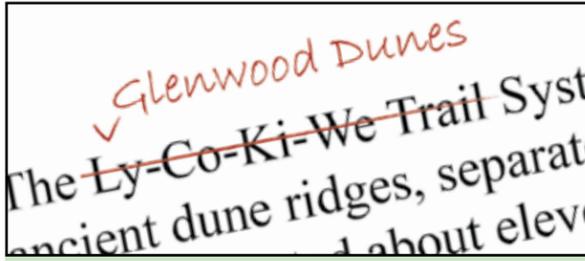
Day 1 2

Park Updates



Cowles Bog Restoration

Restoration in one of the park's rare habitats, a Lake Plain Wet-Mesic Prairie, continued this year in the Cowles Bog wetland complex. The work involves reducing tree cover and removing understory vegetation to allow native prairie species a chance to grow. A number of trees have been retained near historic structures and along Mineral Springs Road. Next steps include restoring the hydrology by removing ditches and planting native prairie plants.



What's in a Name?

Last October, two national lakeshore sites were renamed to help visitors better understand the geological and geographic resources of Indiana Dunes and why inland areas, away from the shore, were included within the park boundaries. Inland Marsh was renamed Tolleston Dunes and Ly-Co-Ki-We Trail was renamed the Glenwood Dunes Trail. Now the four major dune complexes preserved within the park are highlighted, starting with the most recent primary shoreline dunes, followed by Tolleston, Calumet and the older Glenwood dunes.



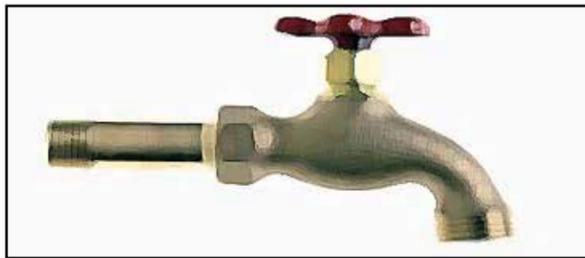
Miller Woods Trail Expansion

In April, the Miller Woods Trail extension was dedicated as part of the *Nature in My Neighborhood* initiative. This extended trail, developed by the National Park Service in partnership with the City of Gary, allows you to hike between the Douglas Center and Gary's Marquette Park / Lake Michigan. This four season trail guides you through a nationally rare oak savanna forest and past several lagoons. Stay on the narrow single-file trail to help the abundant lupine, a critical plant tied to the survival of the threatened Karner blue butterfly.



Ride the Porter Brickyard Trail

The Porter Brickyard Trail is part of a regional trail system that, when completed, will allow bicyclists to travel from Illinois to southwest Michigan. The new two-mile portion is paved and leads visitors past diverse landscapes and cultural sites within the national lakeshore. Highlights include the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, the Little Calumet River, Mnoké Prairie, and remnants of the Great Marsh. This new trail becomes part of the rich heritage of trails, routes and highways traversing this region since the footpaths of prehistoric peoples.



New Campground Waterline

A new municipal waterline was installed last year at the national lakeshore's Dunewood Campground and goes into service this camping season. The water will improve the quality and reliability of the water supply compared to the previous well system and increases the capacity of hydrants to provide fire protection. An increase in the camping fee from \$15 to \$18 per night was approved to cover the additional cost of municipal water.



Century of Progress District Signs

Two new signs are being installed along Lake View drive to mark the park's Century of Progress Historic District. The district is made up of five houses, originally displayed in the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, that were later moved to the Indiana lakefront in the hopes of promoting a new housing development. The signs were funded through a generous donation by the Dunes National Park Association. The association is a non-profit organization that supports Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore by building a community of supporters dedicated to conserving the park for current and future generations.



Deer Management

The National Park Service approved the Deer Management Plan last June allowing the park to take action to reduce the out-of-balance deer population. The abundant deer population, lacking natural predators, has over-browsed many rare and endangered plants, negatively impacting the exceptional biodiversity. The plan includes the reduction of the deer herd through sharpshooting by trained professionals. Other actions include a combination of fencing and use of repellents to protect rare plant populations or restoration areas. The first reduction of the herd took place in late winter and removed 84 deer.



Controlled Burns

The National Park Service conducted prescribed fires last year totaling over 600 acres. These carefully planned and closely monitored burns removed accumulated dead plant material under controlled conditions, reducing the threat of uncontrolled wild fires in the park and adjacent private property. These burns also promote the healthy growth of native plants and maintain the exceptional diversity of this national park. These fires are conducted by trained and experienced park fire personnel, helping to accomplish the management goals and objectives set before each burn.



Bailly Cemetery Stewardship

A group of volunteers cleaned and helped to repair the historic Bailly Cemetery that was overgrown with vegetation and damaged by vandals. As part of the park's monthly Stewardship programs, these volunteers helped to preserve and protect this historic location for the benefit of others. Stewardship programs, offered monthly on the third Saturday, allow visitors a chance to give back while enjoying some exercise and learning more about their national park. Check this guide or www.nps.gov/indu to learn how you can get involved.

Follow the Right Crowd!

Follow today's crowd of park visitors, who are helping to protect this magnificent park, by staying on designated trails and protecting the dunes. It's the right thing to do.

Park visitors climbing up and down dunes over the past forty years did not realize that they were causing damage to these fragile areas. What looks like simple sand paths, are actually places for erosion. Wind, rain, and snow on the bare paths over the dunes makes the dunes erode faster. If the dunes erode, they will get smaller and the Indiana dunes landscape we love will be no more. The damage was so severe at Mount Baldy that the National Park Service had to close some pathways so that dune grass and other native plants have a chance to grow without being trampled. These closed areas are fenced off and identified with signs.

Thanks to park visitors heeding the signs and fences at Mount Baldy, this effort has been a success! Visitors observing the signs and staying on only the designated paths have given dune grasses and cottonwood trees a chance to grow and stabilize the dune.

The same erosion problem is occurring at West Beach. Visitors have created more than 25 miles of paths up and down the fragile West Beach dunes. These paths of bare sand are not only unsightly, but are damaging the fragile ponds between the dunes, called pannes.



These pannes are a rare ecosystem that occurs nowhere else on Lake Michigan. Trampling dune vegetation and running down the dunes cause sand to erode into the pannes, eventually filling the basin and causing the pannes to disappear. Just one visitor straying off the designated trail and forging their own path can kill the critical dune plants that help stabilize the dunes and protect the fragile ponds. To preserve this special area, the National Park Service has closed many of the erosion-causing paths. This summer, park staff and volunteers at West Beach will be on duty to explain the importance of staying out of the closed areas so the dunes have a chance to regrow their protective cover of grasses and other plants.

You can help protect these dunes! Follow the crowd, do your part and do the right thing. Stay on designated trails and give the dunes a chance to heal and the plants a chance to grow. Bring your own shade and resist the temptation to seek shade under a lakefront tree where you would be trampling dune grasses. Encourage your family to swim and exercise along the beach, not running up and down dunes. There are designated trails where you can go through the dunes and get views from on high – stay on those marked trails. We want the spectacular Indiana Dunes to be here for your children's children. The actions you take during your visit will decide if these dunes are here for future generations.

If you would like to learn more, or would like to join our volunteer dune protection team, please contact us at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 219-395-1682.

Take the Challenge!

1. Staying on official designated park trails will:

- a) Reduce the chance of getting poison ivy or ticks.
- b) Help preserve the park for others to enjoy.
- c) Help preserve the marram grass.
- d) All the above.

2. Which statement is wrong?

- a) Marram grass is a great dune stabilizer.
- b) Marram grass is like lawn grass. It can be walked on and recover quickly.
- c) Marram Grass has a fragile root system.
- d) All the above.

3. Are area closed signs enforceable by law?

- a) Yes, it is a violation of federal regulations to go beyond an area closed sign.
- b) No, it is not enforceable.

4. Which statement is wrong?

- a) You can climb to the summit of Mount Baldy from the beach.
- b) West Beach Succession Trail offers spectacular elevated dune views.
- c) Climbing any dune is permissible, as long as no one notices.
- d) Climbing dunes harm the natural resource.

5. The beach has very little shade. Which statement is wrong?

- a) Bring your own shade.
- b) Find shade under a tree on a dune.
- c) Wear sun screen.
- d) Drink plenty of water.

6. What are ways that you can help protect the park?

- a) Become a volunteer.
- b) Join a stewardship program.
- c) Share your knowledge of preservation.
- d) Stay on designated trails.
- e) All the above.

Park Safety Tips

For Your Safety in the Park

Insect repellants work great to keep biting bugs away from you. Staying out of the woods during the very early morning or around dusk will also limit your exposure to mosquitoes. When you go exploring in the woods, you can keep ticks at bay by wearing long-sleeve shirts and pants, with cuffs closed and legs tucked into your socks.

Bees, yellow jackets, spiders, and snakes are happy to leave you alone if you do the same. No amount of repellent will keep creatures from fighting back when you stick your hand into their home. When exploring the park, don't put your hand anywhere you can't see.

Danger

People drown here each year. Be careful!

If there are whitecaps on the lake, the water conditions are too dangerous for swimming or wading.

Sandbars, steep drop-offs, uneven bottom, and debris all combine to make footing uneven and sometimes dangerous.



For Your Safety in Lake Michigan

Entering Lake Michigan is a lot different than splashing in your local pool. It's serious business! Wind driven waves can quickly create dangerous conditions that pose a severe threat to even the most expert of swimmers. People drown in the lake every year. Don't let your visit end in tragedy.

If there are whitecaps on the lake, the water conditions are too dangerous for swimming or wading anywhere along the 15-mile shoreline. Steep, uneven waves can knock you off your feet and tire you out before rescuers can help.

Lake Michigan is a natural environment. Sandbars, steep drop-offs, uneven bottom and debris all combine to make footing uneven and sometimes dangerous. Sandbars entice poor or non-swimmers to venture far from shore. Waves sometimes knock the unwary off the sandbar into much deeper water, occasionally leading to tragedy. Children and poor swimmers are particularly vulnerable to the sandbars. Keep your children at arm's length at all times.

Lake Michigan, like all bodies of water, is susceptible to contamination by natural and human created bacteria. When concentrations are high, these bacteria can pose a threat to your health. Consider staying out of the water and enjoy the lake from the beach. Even on clear days, you should rinse off with fresh water after swimming.



Protect Your Park

Walk only on designated trails to prevent damage to park resources and minimize erosion.

Dispose of your litter and recycle items in marked containers.

Leave all natural and cultural items as you find them to preserve the present and past. Collecting items such as shells, fossils, rocks, and wildflowers is prohibited.

Respect all wildlife from a safe distance. Never feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals is dangerous, harms their health, and alters their natural behaviors.

Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. For example, don't bring firewood to the park. Exotic insect pests that live in firewood can kill native trees. Burn all firewood; take no firewood home.



Keep Your Children Within Reach

Summer Beach Parking

Parking Lots	Capacity	Directions from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
West Beach	596 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 and proceed west to County Line Road. Turn north on County Line Road and follow signs. Lifeguards are on duty. Fees are charged from Memorial Day through Labor Day - \$6.00/vehicle and \$30.00/bus.
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk	125 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 west. Travel west to JCT 249 south, which is the first left after the the overpass. Turn left on Hwy. 249 south and stay in the right-hand lane to traffic light. Turn right at traffic light and follow the park signs.
Porter Access Point	66 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 west to Waverly Road, and turn north.
Kemil Road Access Point	81 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 east to Kemil Road (East State Park Road), and turn north.
Dunbar Access Point	26 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 east to Kemil Road (East State Park Road), and turn north. At the dead end, turn east to Dunbar.
Lake View	40 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 east to Kemil Road (East State Park Road), and turn north. At the dead end, turn east to Lakeview along this road.
Central Avenue Access Point	70 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 20 east to Hwy. 520 north. Follow to Indiana Hwy. 12 east to Central Avenue and turn north.
Mount Baldy	120 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 20 east to Hwy. 520 north. Follow to Indiana Hwy. 12 east to the Mt. Baldy access point.

Parking Tips

- Parking along the road is prohibited.
- Smaller parking lots fill quickly during the summer months.
- The large parking lot at West Beach, with 600 spaces, rarely fills.
- You will be ticketed if you do not use a designated parking space.
- Always lock your vehicle, and leave valuables in your trunk, out of site, or at home.
- Some parking strategies may be to plan an early arrival, midweek trips, or visit during shoulder seasons.

Top Visitor Questions

Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. There are access points located north of the intersection of County Line Road and Highway 12 (Mount Baldy), north end of Central Avenue, Lakefront Drive at Lake View, intersection of West Lakefront Drive and Dunbar Avenue, north end of East State Park Road, north end of Waverly Road (Porter), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (from Hwy. 12 take Hwy. 249 south and follow park signs), and north on North County Line Road (West Beach). West Beach has 600 parking spaces; other parking lots have limited parking. Please reference map located on page 8.

Where may I climb a dune?

Most of the park trails cross over forested dunes. You must stay on a designated trail when you walk on any dune to protect this fragile resource. You can find a strenuous and mostly sandy trail at Mount Baldy. Follow the trail from the parking lot, around the side of the dune to the beach and then up to the summit. You must return along the same route.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile Dune Succession Trail. The new Miller Woods Trail extension traverses the dunes to Marquette Park. Please stay on designated trails to protect sensitive dune species.

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

No. The national lakeshore does not close its beach 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. Lifeguards are not present at other locations of the beach.

Call 219-926-7561 followed by prompt #2 for information regarding E. coli levels.

May I launch my boat and fish?

The park does not have a boat launch. Personal motorized watercraft (Jet Skis and Wave Runners) are prohibited. However, you may launch your non-motorized canoe or kayak at various locations. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

How do I find out about beach regulations?

Just look for a sign like this on the beach. Different areas have different regulations.



May I take my pet with me for a stroll or hike?

Yes. The national lakeshore has over 40 miles of hiking trails. Pets restrained by a leash (6' or less) are permitted on most park trails. Pets are prohibited on the Great Marsh Trail, Glenwood Dune Trail, and at the Nature Play Zone. Pets are only permitted on the beach east of the Kemil access point.

The Glenwood Dunes Trail (intersection of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14.

Hike with others and stay on designated trails for your protection and that of park resources. Trail maps are available at the two park visitor centers and the park web page.

How do I reserve an environmental education program?

Teachers and youth group leaders should call 219-395-1885 to arrange for a free ranger-led program. Many of these programs are conducted at the park's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education located in Gary/Miller, Indiana, and focus on the park's resource issues.

Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?



Yes! Ask a ranger at the Visitor Center to help you select the free Junior Ranger or Junior

Explorer program that best fits your visit. There are three Junior Ranger books to guide you on adventures through several park locations. We also offer the Beachcomber Junior Explorer program if you have just a short time at the beach; other Junior Explorer activities are offered at many special events. Once completed, each participant will have earned a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up Junior Ranger and Junior Explorer materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Douglas Center, download them at www.nps.gov/indu/forkids, or ask a ranger.

Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open the last Friday in April through the third Sunday in October and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores. Its 53 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$18.00 per night. **The walk-in sites are temporarily closed. Credit or debit card ONLY. No cash or checks accepted.**

The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

How can I volunteer at the national lakeshore?

Want to help the park? Join us for the Stewardship Days listed on page 3. Do you have a group that wants to come out for a service day? Have more than one day to help? Go to www.volunteer.gov and see the opportunities listed when you click on the state of Indiana. "Group Spruce up the Park" is for any group that wants to come out to do a service project. We can always use your help. For more information or if you do not have access to the internet, call the Volunteers-In-Park program manager at 219-395-1682 for assistance in filling out the on-line application.

Eastern National Bookstore



Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors of America's national parks.

Eastern National promotes understanding and support of the National Park Service by providing visitors with the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the importance of preserving and protecting America's national parks for future generations.

Eastern National, a nonprofit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications.



Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd

Chesterton, IN 46304

219-395-9555

www.duneslearningcenter.org

Partners



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana Landmarks

340 West Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

1-800-450-4534

www.historiclandmarks.org



Dunes National Park Association

P.O. Box 1130

Portage, IN 46368

www.dunesnationalpark.org

1 Paul H. Douglas Center For Environmental Education

The ponds, open dunes, and oak savanna habitats in Miller Woods provide abundant wildlife and dramatic scenery. The extension trail to Lake Michigan features beautiful scenery with small ponds nestled among wooded dunes teeming with wildflowers in the spring and summer. Families can enjoy the Nature Play Zone.

2 West Beach

West Beach is a great destination, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Enjoy a meal at the picnic shelter, walk a marked trail traversing the dunes and forest, learn how plant and animal communities are replacing one another through time, or watch migrating waterfowl at Long Lake in autumn and spring.

3 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk has an accessible fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that contains a food service area.

4 Cowles Bog Trail

The national lakeshore's most rugged hike takes you on a five-mile journey through wetlands and over both wooded and moving dunes to an isolated beach.

5 Bailly/Chellberg

Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era farmstead. Enjoy Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Mnoke Prairie, Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

6 Glenwood Dunes Trail

Depending on the season, hike, ski, or horse-back ride the four-mile trail through wooded dunes and wetlands. Bring your own skis or horse.

7 Lake View

As the national lakeshore's only picnic area overlooking Lake Michigan, this site offers covered picnic shelters. Beautiful sunset views make this one of the more popular parking spots.

8 Dunewood Campground

Dunewood is one mile south of Lake Michigan and features 53 wooded campsites. Enjoy camping with the convenience of access to restrooms and showers. Fees are charged, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Credit card or debit card only, no cash or checks accepted. The campground is open April 27 - October 21, 2012.

9 Mount Baldy

Hike the trail to the top of the national lakeshore's largest moving dune. Mount Baldy, at 126 feet tall, provides stunning views of Lake Michigan and its shoreline. Do your part to protect the park. Stay on designated trails and avoid walking on plants. To reach the summit, you must first follow the trail out to the beach.

10 Pinhook Bog

A mat of sphagnum moss keeps everything from trees to insect-eating plants floating above an ancient, and now-hidden, lake. This extremely rare and fragile habitat can only be entered during ranger-led tours.

Water Safety

Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rough waters occur frequently during periods of high wind, and make it unsafe to enter the lake. During the winter, shelf ice forms along the lakeshore and is never safe to walk on. Check with local authorities about conditions and potential hazards. There are no lifeguards at the national lakeshore beach during the fall, winter, and spring.

