



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 Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Douglas Center, download them at www.nps.gov/induforkids , 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 western visitor center, especially the new Nature Play Zone, where unstructured play in nature is the tradition. You can help feed the center's resident nature critters 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	There's always something different to focus on in this diverse park. Activities and topics range from guest speakers, new research finds, to favorite park places. The programs change, but the location remains the same. Check the park's website or call the Douglas Center for specific topics at 219-395-1821.	June – September: Saturday & Sunday October – May: Saturday	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	Music Heritage Series	Local musicians, Save the Tunes, help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes using instruments like the hurdy gurdy and dulcimer.	May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
Friday	Firefly Walk	Join a ranger to learn all about fireflies, one of the hundreds of fascinating park insects, while you view their spectacular evening show.	July 11 and July 25 only 8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Bailly/Chellberg parking lot
	Rangers Choice	Explore the national lakeshore's exceptional diversity of life on a special ranger-led hike. Call or stop by the Visitor Center on Friday morning to find out the location of the week's hike.	June 13 – August 15 (Except July 4) 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	Central Beach Sunset Hike	Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger at the Central Beach area and learn about the threats faced by the dunes and what you can do to help protect them.	June 13, June 27 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm August 1 and August 8 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Central Beach parking Lot
Saturday	Campground Program	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the incredible diversity of park resources.	June 14 – August 30 (except July 5) June: 8:30 – 9:30 pm July: 8:00 – 9:00 pm August: 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's diversity. After this hands-on program, children will receive their own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and Junior Wildland Firefighter patch.	May 17, June 28, July 12, August 9 and September 13 10:00 am – 11:00 am May 31, June 14, July 26 and August 23 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Dunewood Campground West Beach Contact Station
	Chellberg Farm Open House	Tour the Chellberg Farmhouse and learn about the lives of early Duneland farm families.	June 14 – August 23 (Except July 5) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
Sunday	Kids Rule!	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
	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. Only open when park staff is present.	June 15 – August 17 (Except July 6) 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog parking lot
	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 (if we hike all the way to Lake Michigan). Call 219-395-1821 for details of the week's hike.	June 1 – August 24 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Trip Planning



If you only have one – two hours:

- Explore the beach at one of the many 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 to the Bailly Homestead or Chellberg Farm and take a short walk on the trail to view these structures up close.
- Bring the family to the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education for free activities and visit the new Nature Play Zone.

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
Kayaking the Dunes' Lagoons	Join a ranger for a paddle through the Miller Woods area lagoons. You must have your own kayak and life jacket.	June 7 & August 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Marquette Park Lagoons
Get Outdoors Day	Pack up the family and spend the day outdoors with the park and its partners. Take a hike, learn about kayaking, explore the river, make a craft, and enjoy lunch on the lawn.	June 14 11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Dunes Learning Center
Fort Building Contest #1 Celebrate Get Outdoors Day	Form a family or small group team and test your architecture skills in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	June 14 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Midsummer Celebration and Evening Concert	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. The outdoor concert features Chris Vallillo who performs an energetic array of traditional American music. In-case of bad weather, the concert will be moved to the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.	June 21 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Evening concert: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Chellberg Farm
Bats Alive! Workshop and Night Hike	Join us for presentations about bats from Purdue University, Mammoth Cave NP, Ravenswood Media (Chicago), and the Organization for Bat Conservation. Instrumentation demonstrations, educational activities, and live bat encounters will highlight the program. This workshop runs throughout the day; contact the Douglas Center for specific times and sessions.	June 21 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Night hike: 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Our Duneland Heritage	Explore the Chellberg Farm during this open house hosted by a ranger and enjoy traditional craft or farming demonstrations.	July 19, August 16, and September 20 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
Civil Rights Through the Life and Times of Martin Luther King	Discuss the lasting impacts of the Civil Rights Act and celebrate the 50th anniversary of this important piece of legislation.	June 28 1:00 pm – 2:00pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Fort Building Contest #2 Celebrate Independence Day	Form a family or small group team and build a patriotic fort in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	July 5 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Kayak Fishing with a Ranger	Join a ranger for a paddle on Lake Michigan or in the Burns Waterway and join in the pursuit for the elusive Skamania Steelhead. You must provide all of your own equipment, obey state fishing laws, and wear a lifejacket.	July 12 7:00 am – 9:00 am	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
Fort Building Contest #3	Form a family or small group team and test your architecture skills in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	August 2 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Persied Meteor Shower	Join a ranger for a spectacular evening light show courtesy of this annual meteor shower and the beauty of natural starlight. There is a \$6 per vehicle fee at West Beach.	August 11 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	West Beach
Pinhook Bog Fall 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. Only open when park staff is available.	September 27 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog
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 18 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
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 6 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 join a ranger and lend a hand in getting the Chellberg Farm garden off to a good start. We will be doing everything from pulling weeds to planting seeds.	May 17 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Chellberg Farm Garden
Attacking Invasives	Join a ranger and volunteer in helping to care for your local national park. As we remove oriental bittersweet and other invasive species in the Central Avenue Beach area.	June 21 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Central Ave. parking lot
Bailly Cemetery Clean-up	We need your help in caring for your local national park. Join in as we wash the stone walls and spruce up the grounds of the historic Bailly Cemetery.	July 19 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at the flagpole (Park Headquarters)
Look out Invasives	Join us as we continue to restore this dune area by removing sweet clover, and other invasive plants. Meet at the first parking area inside the entrance.	August 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
National Public Lands Day: Improving the Cowles Bog Wetland	National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. Join a ranger to help improve one of our most threatened wetlands.	September 27 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Cowles Bog south parking lot
Harvesting the Prairie	Help collect seeds from this tall grass prairie that will be used to restore additional prairie lands throughout the national lakeshore.	October 11 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Mnoke' Prairie parking Lot
Oak Savannas	Join a ranger as we improve the quality of the Miller Woods Oak Savana. Please lend a hand to help improve "Your Neighborhood National Park."	November 15 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Douglas Center parking lot

Park Updates



Dune Protection Efforts Working

Efforts to restore and protect the fragile dune ecosystem at West Beach were initiated in September of 2012. Informational signs and fencing were installed to try to reduce the unintended impacts caused by visitors straying from designated trails. Off-trail foot traffic has led to trampling of vegetation, creation of a network of unauthorized trails, and erosion in sensitive areas including globally imperiled panne wetlands. In order to measure the effectiveness of the signs and fencing, park employees are working with Valparaiso University and Prairie State College to monitor the recovery of plants in previously impacted areas. We see increased stabilizing plant growth where feet aren't going!



Oak Savanna Restoration

Restoration of 1,045 acres of oak savanna will begin this year at the Miller Woods and Tolleston Dunes Units. Oak savanna occurs in only 0.02% of its pre-settlement extent. The work will include reducing the overgrown tree canopy to allow more light to the grasses and flowering plants as well as treatment of invasive plant species across each of the units. The project will benefit the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly as well as a wide range of plants and wildlife. Planting of native forbs and grasses will occur during spring 2015 to augment the native seed bank.



Anniversaries Ahead!

We started planning a series of special events and activities for 2016. The National Park Service will be 100 years old and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will turn 50! On top of that, the state of Indiana is celebrating 200 years of statehood. Special anniversaries are the perfect time to pause and take stock of where we've been, celebrate what we've accomplished and renew our commitments moving forward. We welcome your ideas on how to mark these special occasions and look forward to sharing them with you.



Passport to the Dunes

Discover hidden treasures of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore through the brand new Passport booklet at either the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or the park's Paul H. Douglas Center and start exploring. Complete your passport by visiting at least eight of the nine listed locations and answering one question related to each site. Bring your completed passport back to either center and get a free mini-poster featuring our newly-designed park site logos. This is a great program for someone who has at least a couple of days to explore the park or who makes multiple visits.



Habitat Restoration

This summer you may see work being done to remove 40 older structures and former house sites. This two-year contract is a continuation of a nearly thirty-year effort to help restore the park's natural habitats. When the national lakeshore was established in 1966, close to 1,000 commercial buildings and house sites were included within the park's boundary. When appropriate, the park removes these structures and restores the landscape to a more natural state. A few historic structures have been preserved, and other buildings were renovated to create office space, interpretive centers, and other park facilities.



Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

This popular spot is operated under a unique and very successful partnership. The land, buildings, and facilities are owned by the National Park Service, but the site is operated by the City of Portage, Indiana. While only open since 2008, this spot along the Lake Michigan shoreline has proven immensely popular and drew over 208,000 visitors last year. To help manage the crowds and to shore up erosion along the Riverwalk, the city has contracted work to add handrails, curbing, and other structures. Expected to be completed by Memorial Day weekend, this work will help prevent future water damage and protect the extremely fragile dune habitat from trampling by visitors.



Stewardship Opportunities

In 2013, over 1,100 volunteers donated more than 2,400 hours to learn more about their national lakeshore during Stewardship Saturdays. We are grateful that citizens donate their time, give back, and help protect our public lands. We're in better shape because of their help. Want to join us on select Saturday mornings? See the listing of stewardship programs in the Ranger Guided Programs section of the Singing Sands or on the national lakeshore's website for details and locations.



Nature Play Zone

The new Nature Play Zone, located at the west end of the park at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education has exceeded our expectations! Families who have discovered this unusual outdoor play area return all smiles and want to visit again. This summer, enjoy the site and each family will receive a free set of nature play cards and a water bottle (while supplies last). This is part of our Nature in My Neighborhood campaign, which encourages families to explore nature in the parks and their own backyards. We're also hosting fort-building contests June 14, July 5, and August 2 from 10 am - 4pm.



Heron Rookery

Construction on a nearby bridge on 600 East Road will keep the main entrance and parking lot of the Heron Rookery temporarily closed. Despite the closure of the main lot, access to the trail will still be possible from a small lot at the west end of the trail. Normally just open during the spring wildflower season, this 4-car lot on 450 East Road will be kept open throughout the construction period. While Great Blue Herons have not nested in this rookery for years, you can still spot them in a number of wetlands around the national lakeshore. Check out the overlooks at the Great Marsh Trail or Long Lake in the West Beach unit to see heron and other wetland birds.

Scientists Investigating Mystery Holes on Mount Baldy



A casual observer might think that, after more than an century of robust scientific inquiry at the dunes, we would have discovered almost everything about the park and its resources. Last year we were reminded that there is still undiscovered mystery under foot. Literally. In June of 2013, a curious 6-year old boy entered a deep hole he found on the slope of Mount Baldy. To the horror of his friends, family, park staff, a researcher and other bystanders, this hole closed up trapping the boy under (what was later discovered) eleven feet of sand. Today, the family reports the little boy is just fine. The cause of the hole remains a mystery.

"Mount Baldy is one of the most visited sites in the national lakeshore, attracting thousands of visitors each year" said Deputy Superintendent Garry Traynham, "but the continued development of these holes in the dune surface poses a serious risk to the public. Our first obligation must be to the welfare of our visitors who are here for an enjoyable outing."

Park staff continue to monitor this temporarily closed area of Mount Baldy, and have been working with others to understand what is happening to this giant moving dune. Ground penetrating radar studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), identified a large number of anomalies below the dune's surface, but analysis by scientists from the National Park Service, Indiana University and the Indiana Geological Survey have not yielded answers on how these holes form. Scientists report that the holes are very short-lived, remaining open for less than 24 hours before collapsing and filling in naturally with surrounding sand.

The timeframe for this additional research is expected to last well into the fall. To ensure the public's safety, Mount Baldy, its parking lot, trail, and the beach in front of the dune will remain closed to all vehicular and pedestrian access while the investigation continues. During the research work, the park's resource managers will continue planting marram grass on portions of Mount Baldy where the native dune grass used to grow. The extensive root system of marram grass holds sand in place and may also help prevent holes from opening up on the dune's surface.

Additional work is planned this summer as part of a more comprehensive investigation of the dune. This study will include mapping of openings, depressions, and anomalous features, the use of multispectral Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) and coring to develop a better understanding of the overall internal architecture of the dune, and detailed GPR and coring of some of the anomalies identified in the EPA report.

All other beach access areas within the national lakeshore remain open and visitors are asked to stay on the established trails to prevent erosion and subsequent resource damage. For more information, and to view the EPA's Geophysical Survey Report, a Core Study, photos, video, and graphics on the Mount Baldy research, go to the national lakeshore's website at: <http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/mount-baldy-dune-investigation.htm>.

The long-standing legacy of scientific inquiry, exploration, and discovery continues in your national park. Like us, are you curious as to what other unknown mysteries may be around the corner or underfoot?



Mount Baldy, adjacent parking, trails and beach remain closed.



Welcome From our New Superintendent, Paul Labovitz



"We are glad you chose to visit one of our nation's special places, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Welcome back, or if this is your first visit, get ready for a great National Park experience! We are here to protect and interpret the unique dune habitats and shoreline at the southern end of Lake Michigan. This is a place to connect with the natural world and enjoy four-season recreational opportunities. This is a place to better understand the possibilities of protecting sensitive ecological areas interspersed with industries that have co-existed for almost a century. World class birding, terrific camping and some of the nicest Great Lakes beaches are available just a short trip from Chicagoland. Learn more about how we all work in partnership to provide this national treasure for the enjoyment of our neighbors and visitors. Welcome and have an enjoyable and safe visit."

Paul Labovitz most recently served as the Superintendent of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area in St. Paul, MN. He began his career with the National Park Service in 1988 and worked in Philadelphia, PA, at the Northwest Regional Office and in Brecksville, OH with the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. He is a native of Philadelphia, PA. We now welcome him as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent.

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 pant 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 help arrives.

Lake Michigan is a natural environment. Shifting 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.



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

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.

Dispose of your litter and recycle items in marked containers.



Top Visitor Questions

Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. **See map on back.**

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.

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 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.

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 do I reserve a curriculum school 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.

Is Mount Baldy Open?

Mount Baldy remains temporarily closed this summer as scientists continue their investigation of spontaneous holes forming in the dune. Additional holes have been found since the initial incident and scientists still don't know the cause. Research will continue into late fall. Mount Baldy remains closed to protect the public's safety.

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 and/or hand carry your non-motorized canoe or kayak at various locations. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

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.



How can I learn more and help?

Come out and help on a Stewardship Day listed on page 3 or join the Trail Corps at www.volunteer.gov. Call 219-395-1682 or email Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov for more information.

How do I find out about beach regulations?

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

Regulations

Hours — 7:00 am to Dusk

- No Pets on Beach
- No Glass
- No Fires
- No Alcoholic Beverages
- No Lifeguard on Duty

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 (Temporarily closed)		(Temporarily closed)

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.

Eastern National Bookstore

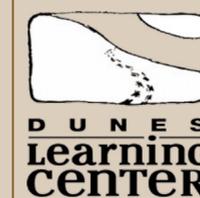


Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors of America's national parks.

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.

Visit the bookstore inside the Visitor Center on SR49 near Hwy. 20 in Porter or www.easternnational.org.



Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd
Chesterton, IN 46304

219-395-9555

www.duneslearningcenter.org

Provides exceptional outdoor education experiences at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Partners



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana Landmarks

1201 Central Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46202

1-800-450-4534

www.indianalandmarks.org

Revitalizes communities, reconnects to our heritage, and saves meaningful places.



Dunes National Park Association

P.O. Box 1130
Portage, IN 46368

www.dunesnationalpark.org

Supports the protection, preservation, and promotion of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

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 views of small ponds nestled among wooded dunes, and teems with wildflowers in the spring and summer. Families can enjoy the Nature Play Zone. The center has interactive exhibits to explore.

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. Light food service available during the summer.

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.

3 Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

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

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

This covered picnic area overlooking Lake Michigan is a great place to relax! Beautiful sunset views make this one of the more popular parking spots. (Limited parking)

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 25 - October 19, 2014.

9 Mount Baldy

(Temporarily closed)

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.

