

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Trail Map

# Great Marsh Trail

*Experience your  
America™*



*The national lakeshore was established in 1966 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. About two million annual visitors enjoy the park's 15,000 acres of wetlands, prairies, sand dunes, oak savannas, forests, and historic sites. The park's beach hugs the southern shore of Lake Michigan from Gary, Indiana, to Michigan City, Indiana. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu).*

The Great Marsh is the largest interdunal wetland in the Lake Michigan watershed. It serves as a critical habitat for breeding and migratory birds. This popular trail features an overlook of the marsh where you can spot a wide variety of birds ranging from Great Blue Herons to Sandhill Cranes.

While much of the marsh was drained in the early 1900's for residential and agricultural use, the National Park Service began restoration of this portion in 1998. To protect the birdlife no pets are allowed on this trail.

*Hike over forty miles  
of trails at  
Indiana Dunes  
National Lakeshore*



National Park Service  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd  
Porter IN 46350  
[www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

Visitor Center 219-926-7561

## Information & Safety

**Trail Length** – 1.26 miles.

**Average Hike Time** – 1.5 hours.

**Trail Surface** – Mostly packed dirt with some sections of gravel.

**Difficulty** – Easy; no change in elevation.

**Accessibility** – This trail features a paved wheelchair-accessible trail to an overlook of the marsh. Parking lot is restricted to vehicles with either a disability parking placard or license plate.

**Hours** – Trail is open from sunrise to 30 minutes past sunset.

**Pets** – No pets allowed on this trail.

Stay on the trail to protect wildlife and yourself.

No bicycles or motorized vehicles allowed.

No littering, hunting, disturbing wildlife or picking plants.

Carry out all trash.

Don't hike alone. If you must, let someone know where you are. Do not rely on your cell phone.

This trail may be muddy or slippery. Wear adequate footwear such as boots or sturdy shoes.

Park wildlife may bite. Do not approach or touch.

Avoid poison ivy by remaining on trails.

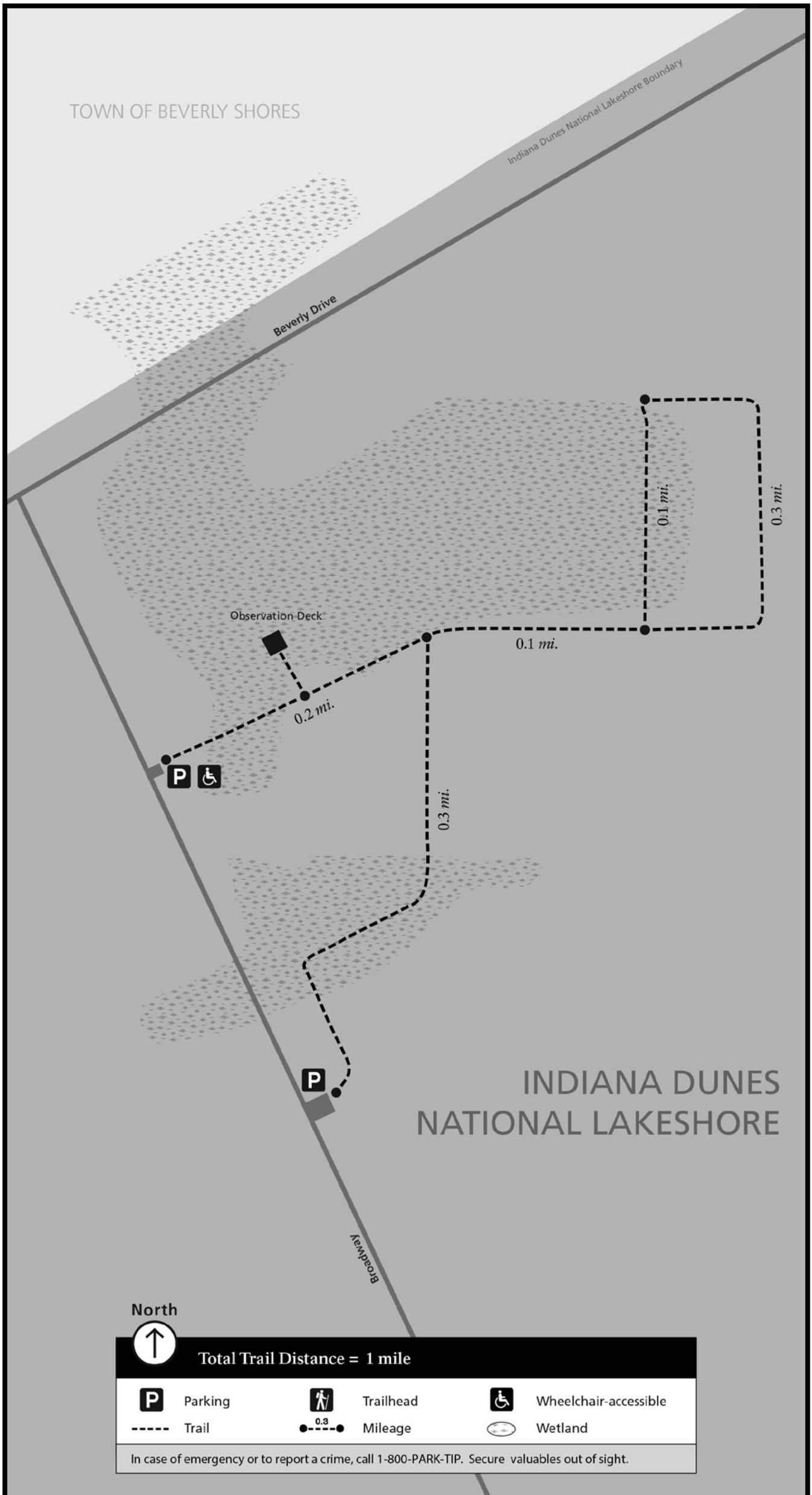
Bring drinking water and stay hydrated to avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Prevent insect bites and related diseases by using insect repellent. Wear long sleeves and long pants to protect your skin. Conduct a thorough body inspection for ticks after your hike.

In cold weather, dress in layers, wear a hat and gloves, and stay dry to prevent hypothermia.

**In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP.**

# Great Marsh Trail



North



Total Trail Distance = 1 mile



Parking



Trailhead



Wheelchair-accessible



Trail



Mileage



Wetland

In case of emergency or to report a crime, call 1-800-PARK-TIP. Secure valuables out of sight.