

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

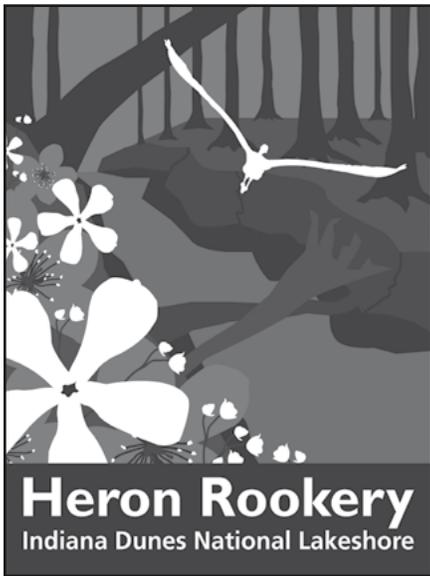
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Trail Map

Heron Rookery 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.

The Heron Rookery Trail follows along a portion of the Little Calumet River that once featured over 100 Great Blue Heron nests. But, after 60 years of nesting here, the herons have moved on to new nesting grounds. But, these woods remain alive with dozens of birds including kingfishers, woodpeckers and a wide variety of migrating and nesting warblers.

In spring, before the trees leaf out, the woodlands along this trail are blanketed with the most extensive display of spring wildflowers in the national lakeshore. Trillium, Spring beauties, and Dutchman's breeches are just a few of the flowers you'll see along this trail.

Fishing is also popular during spring and fall when the salmon and trout are making their spawning runs from Lake Michigan into the Little Calumet River. Indiana state fishing regulations apply.

Mosquitoes are abundant along this trail during the summer. Insect Repellent is strongly recommended.

*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

Visitor Center 219-926-7561

Information & Safety

Trail Length – 1.58 mile.

Average Hike Time – From about 1 hour to 2 hours.

Trail Surface – Mostly packed dirt and clay. The clay makes this trail very slippery when wet.

Difficulty – Easy, with little change in elevation.

Accessibility – Not accessible to wheelchairs.

Hours – Open sunrise to 30 minutes past sunset.

Pets – Pets permitted on a leash (6' or shorter).

Stay on the trail to protect wildlife and yourself.

No bicycles or motorized vehicles allowed.

No littering, hunting, disturbing wildlife or picking plants.

Be prepared for changing weather conditions.

Use insect repellent, wear long sleeves, and tuck long pants into socks to avoid ticks.

The west parking lot is only open during the spring wildflower season.

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

Heron Rookery Trail

