



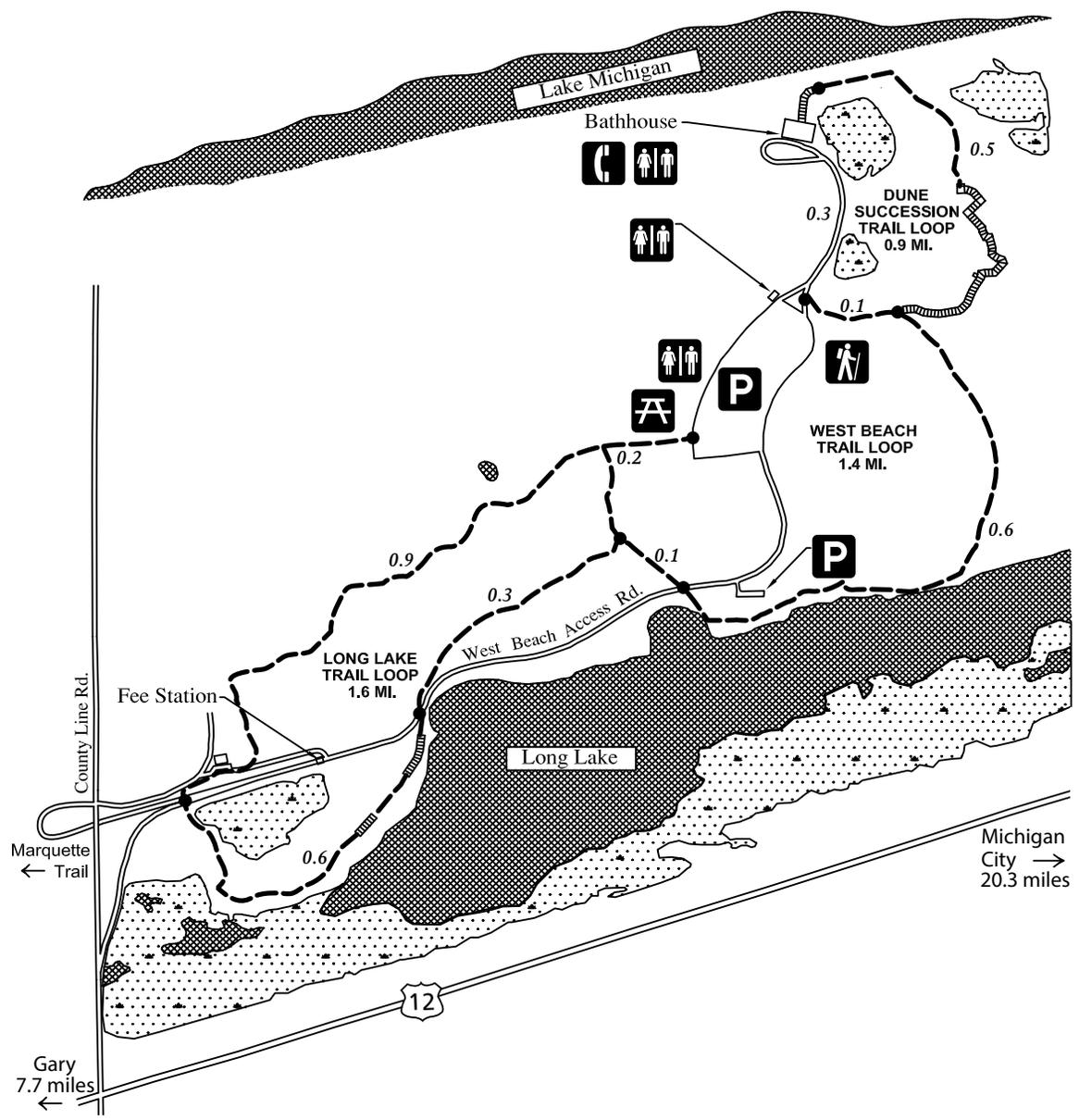
West Beach Trails

The three loops of the West beach trail system offer varied hiking experiences for those wanting a leisurely stroll through a flat oak savanna or a strenuous dune climb up steep stairs.

The Succession Trail Loop highlights the four stages of dune development within its one-mile length. This scenic but strenuous loop takes hikers over open sand beginning at the beach. Hikers follow a boardwalk skirting blowouts, climb over 250 steep stairs to visit forested dunes, and enjoy spectacular views of the lake and Chicago to the northwest.

The West Beach Trail Loop is an easier 1.4-mile hike through an area that was sand mined in the 1920s. The unnaturally flat area is being restored as an oak savanna and sand prairie habitat, making it a great place to see prickly pear cactus. The resident deer population is particularly fond of this area for all the small herbaceous plants that are returning.

Birders will enjoy the 1.6-mile Long Lake Trail Loop as it follows the northern side of this shallow lake. Some steep areas along the edge of the lake take hikers to a viewing platform where they might see green herons or other water fowl.



North



Total Length of Trails = 3.4 miles

- Boardwalk/Stairs
- Trail
- Mileage
- Wetlands
- Open Water

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

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



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.

Trails in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

* Trail map available

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Miller Woods Trail* | 7 Calumet Dunes Trail* |
| 2 West Beach Trails* | 8 Dune Ridge Trail |
| 3 Tolleston Dunes Trail* | 9 Great Marsh Trail* |
| 4 Cowles Bog Trail* | 10 Heron Rookery Trail |
| 5 Bailly/Chellberg Trail* | 11 Mount Baldy Trail* |
| 6 Glenwood Dunes Horse & Hiking Trail* | |

Be a Volunteer

Help support Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore by becoming a volunteer. If you are interested in learning more, contact the volunteer coordinator at 219-395-1682 or visit www.volunteer.gov/gov

Water Safety

Lake Michigan can change quickly. Even moderate winds can create rough water and dangerous currents. Beachgoers should consider staying on the shore when wind is blowing and waves are crashing. Keep children close at all times. Only West Beach has lifeguards in the summer. In winter, the ice that forms along the lake is never safe for walking. Check at the visitor center for conditions and hazards.

