

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Trail Map

West Beach Trails

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 three West Beach Trail loops offer different hiking experiences.

The Dune Succession Trail (Loop 1) highlights the four stages of dune development within its one-mile length. This scenic, but strenuous, hike includes a climb up 250 stairs for a spectacular view of Lake Michigan and Chicago. Protect the dunes by staying on the designated trails before strolling on the beach.

The West Beach Trail (Loop 2) is an easier 1.4-mile hike through an area that was sand mined in the 1920s. This area is being restored as an oak savanna and is a great place to see prickly pear cactus.

Birders will enjoy the 1.6-mile Long Lake Trail (Loop 3) that includes a viewing platform to look for water birds.

Support the restoration effort in the fragile dunes and ponds, or pannes, by remaining on designated trails.

Hike over forty miles of trails at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Information & Safety

Trail Length – 3.4 miles total (Dune Succession (Loop 1): 1 mile; West Beach (Loop 2): 1.4 miles; Long Lake (Loop 3): 1.6 miles).

Average Hike Time – 45 minutes to 2.5 hours.

Trail Surface – Sand, with some boardwalk and stairs.

Difficulty – Moderate; some steep grades and stairs on the Succession loop.

Accessibility – The trail is not accessible to wheelchairs.

Hours – Open sunrise to 30 minutes past sunset.

Pets – Pets permitted on the trail ONLY on a leash (6' or shorter). Pets are PROHIBITED on the beach.

Stay on the trail to protect wildlife and yourself.

Avoid the abundant poison ivy along trail edges.

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.

National Park Service
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd
Porter IN 46350
www.nps.gov/indu

Visitor Center 219-926-7561

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

West Beach Trails

