



The Singing Sands

Summer 2011 - Vol. 32 No. 1

Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is 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.

Contact Information

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Porter, IN 46304

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1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)
To report emergencies, criminal activities, or suspicious activity.

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Park Prescriptions

by Costa Dillon, Superintendent



The next time you visit your doctor, don't be surprised if you're given a prescription that includes a walk along one of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's trails! In April, park officials teamed up with regional health care providers to launch the first "Park Prescriptions" program, a new national program geared to help Americans improve their health using nearby neighborhood parks.

This simple and intuitive idea is one we often overlook—that fresh air, regular outdoor exercise, and connecting with America's great outdoors is good for your body and soul. The park is free, there is never a fee (other than to West Beach in the summer). And, there are probably more active things to do than you may realize. Hiking, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking,



pausing in these wetlands. Wading birds such as herons and egrets, warblers, and Red-winged Blackbirds are spotted throughout the warm months.

The return of these birds is remarkable considering this area was drained, ditched and developed for over a century during a time when the value of natural wetlands was not fully understood. Since the late 1990's, park staff have been working to restore native plants, remove non-native species and restore a more natural hydrology to the area. The return of birds, amphibians, and beaver are visible benefits of a healthy marsh. The "invisible" benefit is improved water quality flowing into Lake Michigan, as the wetland intercepts, filters, and then gradually releases cleaner water.

Located on Broadway Avenue, just a few hundred feet north of the South Shore train depot in Beverly Shores, the short trail from the parking lot leads to an elevated boardwalk and viewing platform.

horseback riding, swimming, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and surfing are just a few of the activities available. Whether you like a short, easy stroll on a pleasant trail, such as along the Little Calumet River at the Bailly/Chellberg area, or a strenuous climb up the Dune Succession Trail at West Beach, there is some place and some activity in the park that will accommodate your interest and reinvigorate your fitness regime.

Regional health care providers are evaluating recreational opportunities with park staff and developing a series of "prescriptions" for their patients to support their individual needs. The possibilities can range from a stroll on a paved trail for a post-surgical patient strengthening a knee to a more strenuous hike that helps a diabetic patient with weight management.

Please help us spread the word about this exciting health movement that uses your neighborhood parks to inspire youth to develop lifelong good health practices, and encourages adults to invest in "green exercise." Tell your health care provider about it and ask for a "park prescription."



For more information or to get involved in this campaign, check for updates on the park web page at www.nps.gov/indu or call the park at 219/926-7561.

Walk the Newest Trail

Take a stroll along the park's newest trail and check out the health of the restored marsh. The Great Marsh Trail, a suggested "Park Prescriptions" trail, is fast becoming a favorite for area birders since it opened in the fall of 2010. During the spring and fall migrations, early morning and sunset visitors have been able to see flocks of coots and Wood Ducks gliding over the wetland's surface. Kingfishers and Rusty Blackbirds rest here; you might even be lucky enough to spot a Sandhill Crane or White Pelican



Ranger Guided Programs

	Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Daily	Junior Rangers by the Lake 	Learn about the national park while enjoying the beach. Children can complete an activity page about the lakeshore and earn a Junior Ranger Beachcombers patch. Get this free activity page from a ranger on the beach or at the visitor center.	Peak Beach Hours	West Beach & Mount Baldy
Weekends	Family Day at the Douglas Center	Enjoy the hands-on, family activities available in the center, help feed the center's resident turtles or fish or join a ranger for a hike in Miller Woods. Call the Douglas Center at 219-395-1821 for this week's special speaker or activity.	June - September 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	Chellberg Farm Open House	Go inside of the farmhouse and learn what life was like on a farm about 100 years ago.	June 11 – September 4 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm
	Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Walk	Join a ranger for a leisurely 1.5 mile walk that includes tours of two historic sites: the Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead. Children can complete an activity page and earn a Junior Ranger Heritage Patch during the program, too.	June 11 – September 4 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead parking lot
	Fun at the Farm 	Kids, accompanied by an adult, can join a ranger to learn about both the work and fun had by kids about 100 years ago on an Indiana dunes farm.	June 11 – September 4 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Chellberg Farm
Wednesday	Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Open Houses	Tour the historic homestead of fur trader and land speculator Joseph Bailly, one of the area's first settlers, and then take a short walk to Chellberg Farm to learn about life on an early Duneland farmstead. Kids can complete an activity sheet to earn a Junior Ranger Heritage patch.	June 8 - August 17 1:00 p.m. – 4 :00p.m.	Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farmhouse.
Friday	Music Heritage Series	Local musicians help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes using instruments like the hurdy gurdy and dulcimer.	June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	Mount Baldy Sunset Hike 	Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger at Mount Baldy and learn about the threats faced by this famous dune and what you can do to help protect it.	June 3, June 24, July 1, August 12 June & July: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. August 12: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Mount Baldy
	Firefly Walk	During this 60-minute program learn about the different behaviors that fireflies exhibit during the summer, and view the spectacular evening show. Also learn how climate change may affect insects like the firefly and ways you can help reduce its effects.	July 22 & 29 8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.	Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead parking lot
	Duneland's Disappearing Night Sky 	Come out and enjoy the dunes by starlight and observe the night sky through a telescope. Meet at the visitor center for a short indoor presentation on our endangered night sky and then make the short drive to the Kemil Road beach access parking lot. Insect repellent recommended and you may want to bring something to sit on. Scouts can earn their Astronomy Merit Badge at this program.	June 10, July 8, August 5, Sept. 2 June & July: 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. August: 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. September: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Saturday	Discovering Your Neighborhood National Park (Campground Program)	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the diversity of park resources, and activities that can be found at the national lakeshore.	June 4 – Sept. 3 (Excluding July 2 & July 23) June: 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. July: 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Aug.–Sept.: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Dunewood Campground Amphitheater
	Junior Wildland Firefighter Program 	Meet the park's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. After this hands-on program, children will receive their very own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and a Junior Wildland Firefighter patch.	Campground Amphitheater June 25, July 23 & August 27 West Beach Contact Station June 11, July 9 & Aug. 13 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	See Date & Time
	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 about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog.	June 25 July 23, August 27, September 24 (Except July 3rd) 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Pinhook Bog parking lot
	Night Hike	By the light of the quarter moon come and learn what is making those noises. Become more comfortable hiking outdoors at night accompanied by tonight's ranger. This program is repeated under the full moon on Saturday, August 13 at 8:00 p.m.	July 23 & August 13 8:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Sunday	Kids Fun at the Visitor Center 	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for an afternoon of kid's activities, stories, and fun. Also learn about the "Let's Move" activities that kids can do to help stay fit in their national park and earn a sticker.	Sundays, Year-round	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore 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 about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog.	Sundays, June 26 - Aug. 14 (Except July 3rd) 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Pinhook Bog parking lot

 ◇ Programs that support America's Great Outdoors initiative.
Visit www.AmericasGreatOutdoors.gov

PROGRAMS MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE

Ranger Guided Programs

Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Special Events			
Take a Kid Fishing Day at the Dunes 	Join "America's Great Outdoors" initiative and do some fishing in your national lakeshore. Bring your own fishing gear and get tips on fishing from a park ranger. All ages welcome. This is during "Free Fishing Weekend", so a fishing license is not required. However, all other state fishing regulations apply.	June 4 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
Celebrate 25 Years at the Douglas Center	Join the National Park Service and partners in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and "Leave No Child Inside" month. This free event will feature a variety of family friendly, hands-on activities.	June 25 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
A pre-Fourth of July Picnic	Join a ranger with your lunch in the picnic area behind the Douglas Center and look for elusive animals who may be watching you, too. In addition to your lunch, bring along your binoculars.	July 2 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Kayaking Burns Waterway 	Join a ranger for a brief presentation of the "Threatened Lake Michigan" program and then go on a kayak tour of the Burns Waterway. You must bring your own kayak and life preserver.	July 16 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
Calumet Outdoor Series - Hike from Mt. Baldy to Central Beach	Join a ranger for a hike from Mt. Baldy site to our Central Beach site. Parking is limited.	August 20 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot
Duneland Heritage Days 	Embark on a journey through 10,000 years of shared Indiana Dunes heritage at this popular festival.	September 17-18 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead
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 24 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Cowles Bog south parking lot
Fall Colors Walk	Take a hike with a ranger to enjoy the fall colors and to learn how the wildlife and woodlands prepare for the coming scarcity of winter.	October 22 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Calumet Dune Trail

Stewardship Days

Saving Mount Baldy	Join in as we remove oriental bittersweet and other invasive species in the Mount Baldy area. Also, learn about the other threats to this dune and what you can do to help. Meet at the Mount Baldy parking Lot.	June 18 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mount Baldy parking lot
Rain Gardens	Learn about the importance of wetlands and to help work on one of the lakeshore's rain gardens and a nearby wetland. Meet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Headquarters Flag Pole.	July 16 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at Building 104.
Bailly Cemetery Clean-up	Volunteer in helping to care for your local national park. Join in as we wash the stone walls and spruce up the grounds of the historic Bailly Cemetery. Meet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Headquarters Flag Pole.	August 20 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at Building 104.
Harvesting the Prairie	Help collect seeds from this tall grass prairie that will be used to restore additional prairie lands throughout the national lakeshore. Meet at the Mnoke Prairie Parking Lot.	October 15 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mnoke Prairie parking lot

For information on listed and additional programs, call 219-926-7561.

Trip Planning



2hrs

If you only have one – two hours:

- Hike to the summit of Mt. Baldy to enjoy a spectacular view of Lake Michigan and the national lakeshore.
- Learn about the ever changing dunes and the plants that call them home by hiking the West Beach Dune Succession Trail and boardwalk.
- Relax at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and enjoy the park video, "Child of the Northwest Wind" for a virtual tour of park. Then, help the kids explore the center's activity room to learn even more about this special place.
- Travel along Lakefront Drive to view Lake Michigan and the five historic Century of Progress Homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair.
- Bring a picnic and enjoy a lakeside lunch at either the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site or Lakeview.

If you have half a day:

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- Join one of the many ranger-led programs designed to help you find your own connection to this incredibly diverse national park.
 - Lounge on any of the 15 miles of national lakeshore beach and enjoy beautiful views of the expansive Lake Michigan. While you're relaxing, the kids can earn a Junior Ranger Beachcombers patch by completing a fun activity sheet.
 - Take a trip back through time and tour the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm to learn about early Duneland history. Then, follow the same trail to Mnoke Prairie and learn about the restoration efforts underway in this rare habitat.
 - Journey deep into Inland Marsh to explore the trails through a fire dependant habitat and perhaps catch a glimpse of the Karner Blue butterfly, an endangered species.

If you have one – two days:

- 
- Spend the night at Dunewood Campground to experience the natural night life of the dunes. During your stay, join a ranger around the amphitheater's campfire for a Saturday evening program.
 - If you're experienced enough, kayak along the new Lake Michigan Water Trail to see the dunes and national lakeshore from a whole new perspective.
 - Hike through Miller Woods, a rare black oak savannah tucked behind the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, and explore the many interdunal ponds along the trail. Then stop in the center to check out the animal room and new exhibits.
 - Take a hike along the rugged 5-mile long Cowles Bog Trail to explore wetlands, savannah, and high dunes. Then, enjoy a picnic lunch on a beach that is only accessible by hiking or boat. Looking to avoid crowds? Enjoy the lakeshore in spring and fall to avoid the summer crowds. There are usually fewer visitors mid-week during any time of the year.

Mount Baldy Restoration

Mount Baldy is one of the most recognized and popular dunes in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. While a few may argue that point, one thing seems certain, our current enjoyment of Mount Baldy is causing damage.

The expansive desert-like look of the dune and broad steep slope has attracted nearly 200,000 yearly visitors to the Mount Baldy area. Trampling feet have killed the marram grass and other vegetation that once helped hold the dune in place. While prevailing winds naturally move Mount Baldy an average of about four to six feet per year to the south, the loss of the anchor plants and increased sand erosion is accelerating movement at an alarming rate. A recent study indicates that the dune is now unnaturally moving between eleven to eighteen feet per year.

Some have felt that Mount Baldy can be a “sacrifice area” where damage is ignored. In a national park, there can be no such areas. We are obligated by law to conserve and protect park resources and values. National Park Service management policies state that, “when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.” NPS managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize to the greatest extent practicable, adverse impacts on park resources and values.



We are taking the following actions to restore Mount Baldy:

Protect the South Slope – We will maintain a fence barrier at the parking lot to prevent visitors from climbing up and down the south slope of the dune. This will reduce erosion of this portion of the dune and give plants a chance to grow without being trampled.

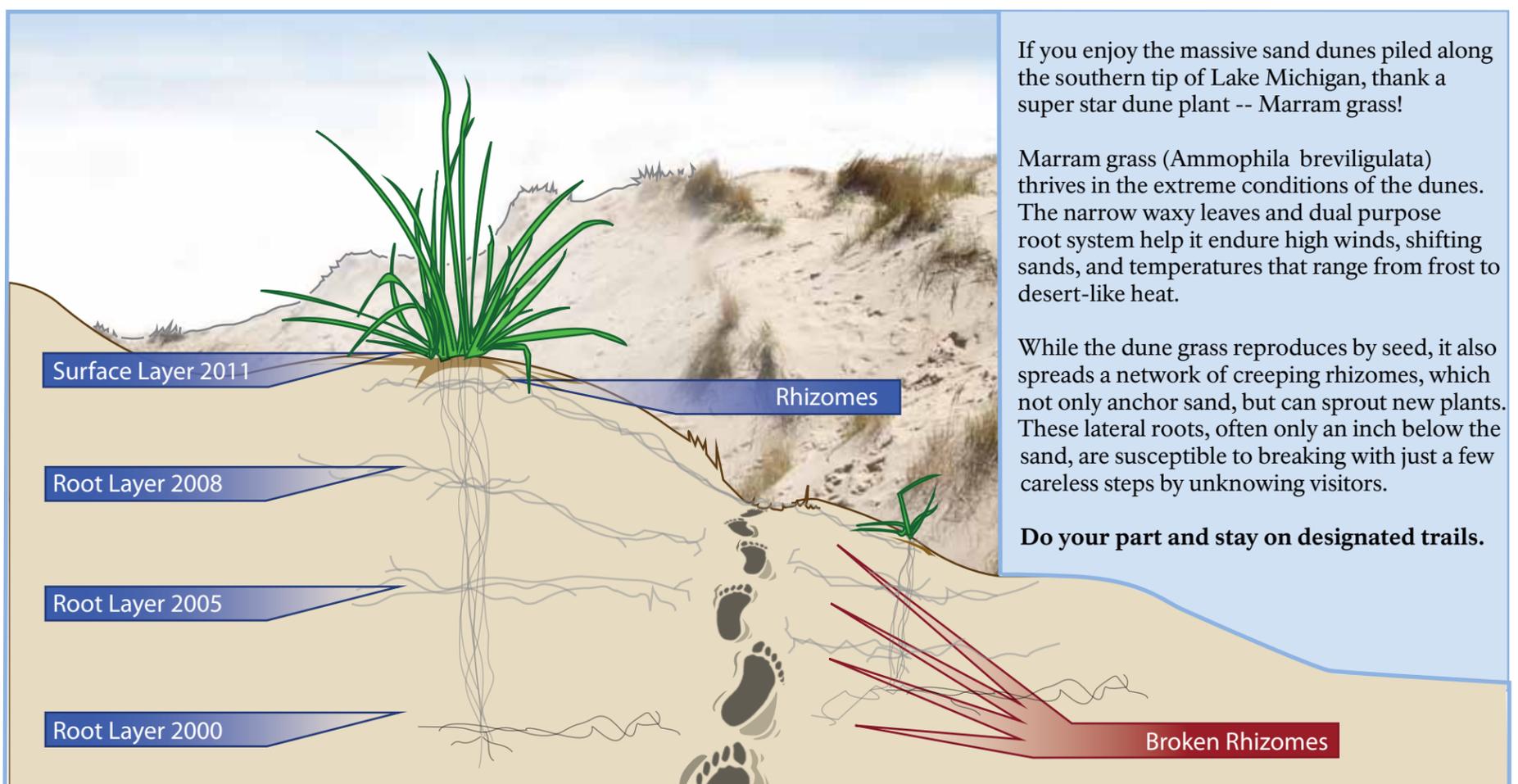
Restore Vegetation – The northwestern portion of Mount Baldy will be temporarily fenced off. Native dune grass will be planted to stabilize this highest point of the dune. Hang-gliding is prohibited during the restoration.

Designate and Enforce an Appropriate Route – To reduce trampling and potential injuries from running into the parking lot fence, a route from the summit back to the trail will be clearly marked.

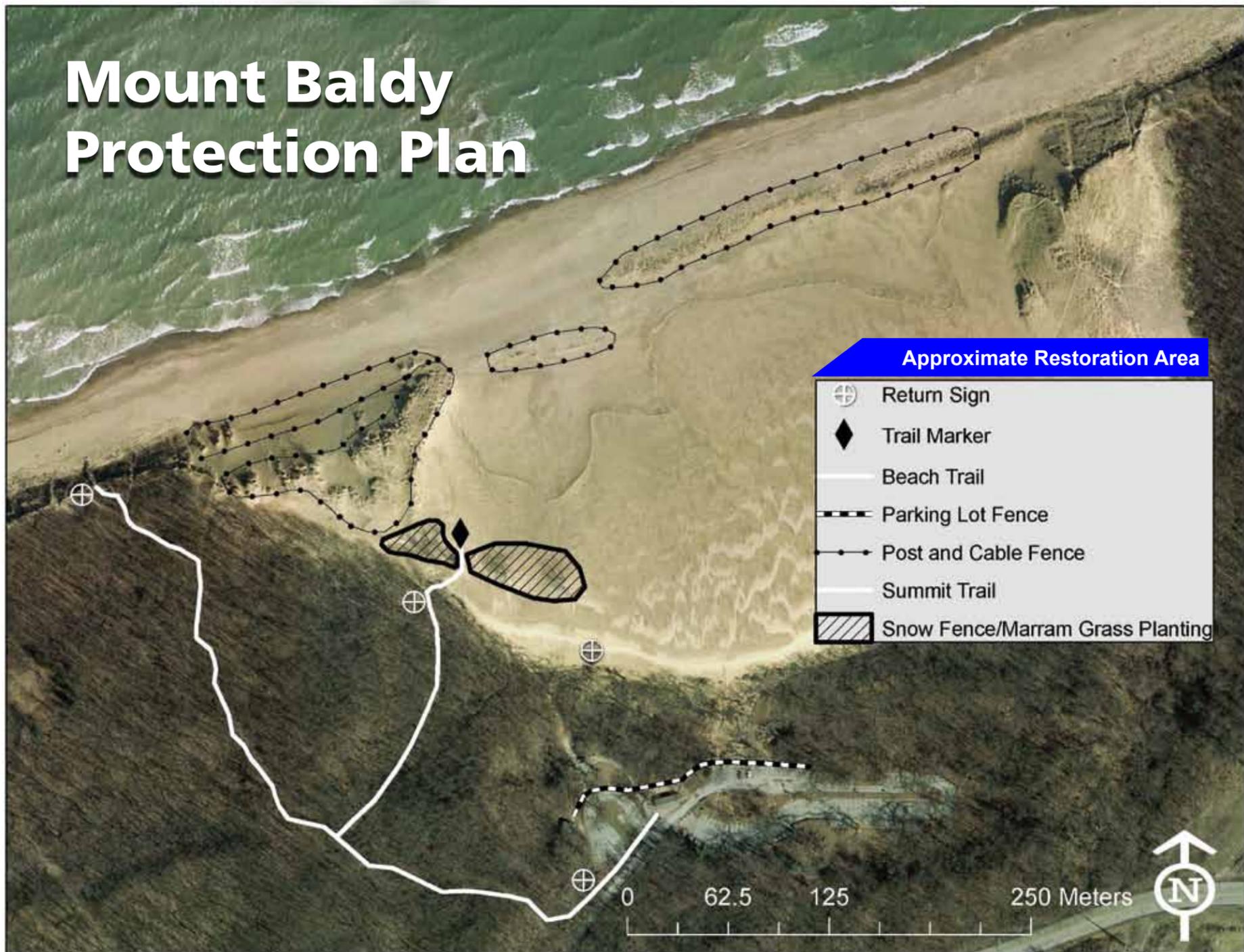
Reduce Social Trails – Post and cable fencing will protect three areas of the dune where visitors have trampled and killed much of the vegetation and created unofficial, “social trails.” When protected from our feet, vegetation can re-sprout in these damaged areas.

Visitor Education – Park staff and interpretive signs placed in key locations at Mount Baldy will help visitors understand what they can do to help us restore, while still enjoying, this beautiful natural area.

We will need everyone’s help if we are to succeed in restoring Mount Baldy. Please do your part by staying out of the restoration areas. If you observe others damaging the dune, please don’t hesitate to contact the park at 1-800-PARK-TIP.



Mount Baldy Protection Plan



Park Information

Protect Your Park



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

Dispose of your litter and recycle items in marked containers.

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.

Park Hours

Unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to sunset. Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until dusk. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center

Located on SR 49, between U.S. Hwy. 20 and Interstate 94 near Chesterton, Indiana; open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the summer and 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the winter. An introductory park movie is available upon request.



Douglas Center for Environmental Education

Located on 100N Lake St. Miller, 46403, Indiana. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. Check www.nps.gov/indu for winter hours.

Park Safety Tips

Fast Facts About Lake Michigan:

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 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 rescuers can help. Rip currents can sweep you away, even from shallow water.

Lake Michigan is a natural environment. 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.

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. Heed regional "No Swimming" advisories and enjoy the lake from the beach. Even on clear days, you should rinse off with fresh water after swimming.

- Lake Michigan, one of five Great Lakes, makes up the largest fresh water system in the world.
- Can you name the five Great Lakes? (Lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior, Erie, Ontario).
- The Great Lakes make up 95% of the surface freshwater in the contiguous United States and have a total of 10,000 miles of coastline.
- Lake Michigan is approximately 321 mi (517 km) long and up to 118 mi (190 km) wide, with a maximum depth of 923 ft (281 m); it occupies an area of 22,300 sq mi (57,757 sq km).
- Over 10 million people get their drinking water from Lake Michigan.
- More than 40 drinking water plants from 4 states draw their water from Lake Michigan.

Summer Beach Parking

Parking Lots	Capacity	Directions from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore 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/car and \$30.00/bus.
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion site	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	81 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 12 east to Kemil Road (East State Park Road), and turn north.
Dunbar Avenue	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	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	120 vehicles	Follow Indiana Hwy. 49 north to Hwy. 20 east to Hwy. 520 north. Follow to Indiana Hwy. 12 east to the Mt. Baldy access point.

Parking Tips

- Parking along the road is not authorized.
- 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.

Top Visitor Questions

Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. There are access points located north of the intersection of County Line Road and Highway 12 (Mt. Baldy), north end of Central Avenue, Lake Front Drive at Lake View, intersection of West Lake Front Avenue and Dunbar Avenue, north end of East State Park Road, north end of Waverly Road (Porter), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (from Hwy. 12 take Hwy. 249 south and follow park signs), and north on North County Line Road (West Beach). West Beach has 600 parking spaces; other parking lots have limited parking. Please reference map located on page 8.

Where may I climb a dune?

Mount Baldy is the only dune where climbing is allowed in the national lakeshore. You may scale the dune from the lakeside (north side) to the summit. Climbing is prohibited on the side adjacent to the parking lot because it accelerates the movement of the dune. Follow the trail from the parking lot, which leads around the side of the dune to a junction that offers a choice between the summit or beach trails.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile Dune Succession Trail. **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 regardless of water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas. 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 launch my boat and fish?

The park does not have a boat launch. Personal motorized watercraft (Jet Skis and WaveRunners) are prohibited. However, you may launch your kayak (or other non-motorized watercraft) at locations other than at West Beach. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

How do I find out about beach regulations?

Just look for this sign on the beach.



Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open April 1 through October 31 and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores. The 79 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$15.00 per night. The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available; however, the campground has a dump station. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. **Alcohol is strictly prohibited.**

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 are permitted on beaches east of the Kemil access point and on most park trails. However, pets are not permitted on the beach west of the state park. Pets are not permitted on the new Great Marsh Trail. The Ly-co-ki-we Trail (intersection of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14.

Please hike with others and stay on designated trails for your protection and that of park resources. Trail maps are available at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, which is located near the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 20 and Indiana Hwy. 49 in Porter, IN.

How do I reserve an environmental education program?

Teachers and youth group leaders should call Ranger Christy at 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.



Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! Stop by the park's visitor center and ask a ranger to help you select the junior ranger program that best fits your visit. A Beachcomber's program is popular with families spending just a few hours on the beach. A more comprehensive program is a favorite among those camping in the park. Other junior ranger programs are offered during special events. All programs are free. Children completing the junior ranger program earn a Junior Ranger patch or badge. Program materials are available at the visitor center and are downloadable at www.nps.gov/indu/forkids. Rangers often carry junior ranger materials with them for your convenience; just ask!

What is Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, and how do I get there?

This site is part of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and has a riverwalk, a fishing pier, parking lots, and an environmentally-friendly pavilion. The City of Portage operates and maintains this site through an agreement with the National Park Service. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk can be accessed by following Hwy. 249 north from Hwy. 20 and follow the park signs.

How can I volunteer at the national lakeshore?

There are countless opportunities to volunteer. Go to www.volunteer.gov/gov and click on Indiana. Our volunteer opportunities are listed there. If you do not have access to the internet, leave a message with Lynda, the Volunteers-In-Park program manager at 219-395-1682. We are looking for volunteers to provide information at our Visitor Centers, restore natural landscapes, and help educate visitors.

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 non profit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications.
www.EasternNational.org



**DUNES
Learning
Center**

Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd

Chesterton, IN 46304

219-395-9555

www.duneslearningcenter.org

Partners



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana Landmarks

340 West Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

1-800-450-4534

www.historiclandmarks.org

DNR

Indiana Department of
Natural Resources

Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 North 25 E.

Chesterton, IN 46304

219-926-1952

www.IN.gov/dnr

1 West Beach

West Beach is a great destination, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Grill 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.

2 Portage Lakefront

Opened in 2008, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk has parking for 125 cars, an accessible fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that contains a food service area.

3 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.

4 Bailly/Chellberg

Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era farmstead. Enjoy the Duneland Heritage Days during the third full weekend of September and Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Mnoké Prairie, Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

5 Ly-co-ki-we Trail

Depending on the season, hike, ski, or ride the four-mile trail through wooded dunes and wetlands. Bring your own skis or horse.

6 Lake View

As the national lakeshore's only picnic area overlooking Lake Michigan, this site offers covered picnic shelters. Beautiful sunset views make this one of the more popular parking spots.

7 Dunewood Campground

Dunewood is just over one-mile south of Lake Michigan and features 79 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. The campground is open April through October.

8 Mount Baldy

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.

9 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. Rip currents occur frequently during periods of high wind and waves. 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. Note: There are no lifeguards at any national lakeshore beaches during the fall, winter and spring.

