Saving the Dunes: Then and Now

by: Nicole Barker, Executive Director, Save the Dunes

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

100 Years - Let's Celebrate!
The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016, and everyone can take part in the celebration!

The centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

We invite you to find your park and discover the national parks and programs in your own backyard!

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore turns 50 on November 5, 2016. We invite you to take part in the celebrations happening throughout this special year.

Contact Information

ADDRESS
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304
(GPS - N41.6061 W87.2678)

PHONE
219-395-1882 visitor information
219-395-1882 visitor information

E-MAIL
indu_communications@nps.gov

WEBSITE
www.nps.gov/indu

www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNL

https://www.flickr.com/photos/indianadunes

http://twitter.com/IndianaDunesNPS

Dorothy Buell directed her enthusiasm, determination, and fearlessness toward a single goal, saving the Indiana Dunes!

Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Located on 100 N. Lake St. Miller, Indiana, 4603.

Visitor Centers - A Great Place to Start

unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.

Paul H. Douglas Center
for Environmental Education
Located on 100 N. Lake St. Miller, Indiana, 4603.

Open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. (Winter: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Sat.)

GPS: N41.6061 W87.2678

Call 1-800-PARKTIP (727-3847) to report emergencies, and suspicious or criminal activity.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Dorothy Buell directed her enthusiasm, determination, and fearlessness toward a single goal, saving the Indiana Dunes!

Senator Paul H. Douglas leading the charge to save the dunes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>An Afternoon with Diana of the Dunes</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7</td>
<td>Times vary by season</td>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Kemil Beach parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>7:00 am - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Birding with Ken Brock</td>
<td>Portage Lakefront</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 8</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>An Afternoon with Octave Chanute</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 28</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Water Wonders of the Great Lakes</td>
<td>Douglas Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 5</td>
<td>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Holiday Traditions in the Dunes</td>
<td>Bally Homestead, Chellberg Farm &amp; Douglas Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9</td>
<td>Times vary by season</td>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Kemil Beach parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 14</td>
<td>10:00 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Newsletter Publishing</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9</td>
<td>11:00 am - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Dunes Learning Center Winter Open House</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18</td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day of Service</td>
<td>Douglas Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 6</td>
<td>Times vary by season</td>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Kemil Beach parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>You Can’t Get There From Here Anymore!</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 27</td>
<td>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>A Patchwork of History Passed Down</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday &amp; Sunday 5, 6 &amp; 12, 13</td>
<td>10:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Maple Sugar Time</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 - Friday 11</td>
<td>Call 219.395.1885</td>
<td>Maple Sugar Time (school groups)</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 19</td>
<td>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>The Prairie Club in the Indiana Dunes</td>
<td>Westchester Township History Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 2</td>
<td>Times vary by season</td>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Kemil Beach parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 &amp; Thursday 7</td>
<td>Call 219.395.1987</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Science Conference</td>
<td>Chicago State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9</td>
<td>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>20th Annual FRIENDS Native Plant Sale</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9</td>
<td>10:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Dunes Learning Center Summer Camp Open House</td>
<td>Dunes Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16</td>
<td>5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>50 years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes - with David Larson</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16 - Sunday 24</td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
<td>Various Locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23</td>
<td>10:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Green Gary</td>
<td>Douglas Center &amp; Marquette Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882 for more program information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 - Sunday 8</td>
<td>See website in description</td>
<td>INDU Birding Festival</td>
<td>Various Locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7</td>
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<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Kemil Beach parking lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 14</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>In a Pickle or a Jam: “Preserving” The Bounty</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 &amp; Saturday 21</td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882</td>
<td>Miller Woods BioBlitz</td>
<td>Douglas Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 21</td>
<td>Reservations 219.395.1882</td>
<td>Logs to Lustrous Tour</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24</td>
<td>Call 219.395.1882</td>
<td>1st Pitch - South Bend Cubs</td>
<td>South Bend Cubs Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Photographing the Dunes - A workshop by David Larson</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
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Additional programs may be available. Programs subject to change without notice.
<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 2016</strong></td>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Enjoy the beauty of the night sky through telescopes from the darkest site in the park.</td>
<td>Kewl Beach parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Hobart Prairie Grove Trail Dedication</td>
<td>Explore the new trail system adjacent to Lake George with hiking, biking, and other activities.</td>
<td>Hobart Prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Before Bailly: Life of Early Settlers Along the Calumet</td>
<td>A celebration of the early settler's life in Northwest Indiana's wild frontier from 1730 to 1830.</td>
<td>Bailly Homestead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>The Life and Times of Amphibians</td>
<td>Hike with ecologist Dr. Spencer Cartwright and learn the importance of life in marshes, swamps and wetlands.</td>
<td>Cowles Bog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>National Get Outdoors Day</td>
<td>Free family fun guided hikes, crafts, animal interactions, kayak demonstrations, live music and picnicking.</td>
<td>Dunes Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>In a Pickle or a Jam: &quot;Preserving&quot; The Bounty</td>
<td>Join the creative Chellberg Farm cooks and learn how to preserve the &quot;vegetable garden's bounty&quot; for future use.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Architecture Camp</td>
<td>Educating local history and architecture to children ages 8-12. Crafts, field trips, and networking with professionals.</td>
<td>Field Station Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Midsummer Celebration</td>
<td>Celebrate the summer solstice with traditional Swedish music, dance, and food.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 2016</strong></td>
<td>In the Footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr</td>
<td>Celebrate and honor the legacy and commitment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders.</td>
<td>Douglass Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Lightning Bug Music Festival</td>
<td>Come celebrate summer and music. Tickets are required.</td>
<td>Sunset Hill Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Old Fashioned Toys and Games</td>
<td>Come out and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun times at the farm.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>South Shore Railroad Day</td>
<td>Learn about the South Shore Intercity Rail Cars and the history behind the unique partnership that saved them.</td>
<td>East Troy, WI</td>
</tr>
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<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>In a Pickle or a Jam: &quot;Preserving&quot; The Bounty</td>
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<td>Chellberg Farm Kitchen</td>
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<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Paddle the Lake Michigan Water Trail</td>
<td>Paddle the shore of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.</td>
<td>Shoreline from Marquette to Washington Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 2016</strong></td>
<td>Old Fashioned Toys and Activities</td>
<td>Come out and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun times at the farm.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Perseid Meteor Shower</td>
<td>Watch the night sky light up with shooting stars.</td>
<td>West Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>Music Heritage Series: Songs From 1916</td>
<td>Enjoy traditional music associated with the Ragtime and Jazz Eras, World War I and patriotism.</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
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<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>You Can't Get There From Here Anymore!</td>
<td>A historic look into the early days and development of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.</td>
<td>Dunewood Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 2016</strong></td>
<td>NPS 100th Anniversary Concert</td>
<td>Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Parks with a free concert by the Northwest Indiana Symphony.</td>
<td>West Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 2016</strong></td>
<td>INDU History Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>Clues will send participants throughout the national lakeshore to solve puzzles and complete the challenge.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
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<td>Chellberg Farm Kitchen</td>
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<td>1st Saturday Night Stargazing</td>
<td>The Great Lakes - A Concert by Lee Murdock</td>
<td>Celebrate our region's most precious natural source – with the darkest site in the park.</td>
<td>Indiana Dunes Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 2016</strong></td>
<td>Century of Progress Homes Tour</td>
<td>Join some very &quot;tricky&quot; volunteers as they prepare the farmhouse for the holiday.</td>
<td>Chellberg Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 2016</strong></td>
<td>Holiday Traditions in the Dunes</td>
<td>Celebrate the holidays through music, dance, crafts, and other activities at various national lakeshore locations.</td>
<td>Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm &amp; Douglass Center</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Every Kid in a Park Program

Every Kid in a Park is a national program providing 4th graders with the opportunity to earn a free pass, good for a year, to any of the national parks or other federal lands. This Fourth Grade Pass is being rolled out at the start of the school year as part of the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the National Park System in 2016.

- The free pass is available to U.S. 4th graders with a valid Every Kid in a Park paper voucher.
- The pass is valid for the duration of the 4th grade school year through the following summer (September - August).
- Paper vouchers can be obtained by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website and can be exchanged for the Annual 4th Grade Pass at Federal recreation sites that charge Entrance or Standard Amenity fees. The Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center are two locations where vouchers can be exchanged for passes.
- Digital versions of the voucher (such as on smart phones or tablets) will not be accepted to exchange for an Annual 4th Grade Pass.
- The pass is non-transferable.
- Educators can help their students get vouchers and passes. Learn more at the Every Kid in a Park website.
Much was accomplished in the early years under the first Superintendent, J.R. Whitehouse. The 1976 expansion bill added over 4,000 acres and initial development began, including West Beach, still the park’s largest development. As we celebrate the 50th, we should remember J.R. His achievements were remarkable, especially in a time characterized by bitter conflict, threatening both his job and the park; Interior Secretary James Watts wanted to deauthorize the park.

Environmentalists mourned the loss of the Central Dunes that they had fought so hard for. Their feelings of anomicity toward industry were so strong that, when US Steel donated over 200 acres of Miller Woods to us in 1981, it wasn’t viewed by Save the Dunes as a gift, but as an “unholy” compromise with industry.

But, things gradually changed. We restored the Chellberg Farm as a living farm with seasonal festivals, and it became the focal point for community involvement in our volunteer program. NIPSCCO donated land and easements in their Greenbelt to add to and provide access to the Cowles Dunes and wetlands. Midwest Steel, rather than entombing their hazardous waste lagoons on Burns Ditch, chose to reclaim the area thereby allowing a remarkable partnership of the park, City of Portage, Porter County, the State and Regional Development Authority to further restore, develop and provide access to the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.

Other partnerships developed with the Friends of Indiana Dunes, a preschool in the park, and with the Dunes Learning Center to manage our residential education programs in new camp facilities, proudly built almost entirely by our own park staff. Our partners in Porter County Tourism gave us a new visitor center and Indiana Landmarks Foundation helped us restore the World’s Fair homes and other historic structures.

Land acquisition was a continuing effort until we owned most all the land in the park when I retired in 2007. Expansion bills, managing and restoring new lands, overseeing almost 500 “leasebacks” homes purchased but remaining occupied, was a major management burden. In the end we acquired nearly 6,000 individual parcels comprising almost 11,000 acres.

We worked with partners to develop and expand environmental education, especially at the Paul H. Douglas Center and the Dunes Learning Center. We also developed and implemented science based resource management programs to guide our work in habitat restoration, including implementation of controlled burn programs that also protected our neighbors from wildfires. Much more needs to be done; resource management and protection will be a never ending responsibility.

We now have partners to help us preserve the outstanding resources of Northwest Indiana. Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has a long range plan that recognizes the importance of our environmental assets. Efforts to include the Little Calumet River in the park failed, but now the State has designated it a special Conservation Corridor, with Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinz Land Trust, and other partners working together to preserve its valuable wetlands and floodplain and provide access for recreation.

A decision was made 50 years ago to authorize a National Park in the midst of heavy industry, surrounding and abutting a variety of residential communities, and crisscrossed with rights-of-way for highways, pipelines, railroads, and utility corridors. It might not have worked, but it has. Its nature makes it difficult to manage and there are new fiscal constraints but, I know that Superintendent Paul Labovitz and his successors, with the support of our partners and friends, will succeed and the park will prosper.

Help us celebrate fifty years of exploration and learning at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The year 2016 looks to be a busy one celebrating both the 50th anniversary of Indiana Dunes and the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

Reflecting back isn’t as much fun as looking forward. What can, and will, we be doing here for the next fifty years? Much of the future will include continuing the great work being done today. The restoration of rare and critical habitats remains an important part of the Indiana Dunes. As important, is the increasing understanding of our role as a National Park, in connecting visitors, neighbors and friends to the natural and cultural world.

Indiana Dunes is a place where people learn how to play outside. Indiana Dunes rangers broker what are transformational experiences for young people and adults alike, in our world where it is easier at times to look at a screen. The direction here is for the team of park rangers to be sunburnt with mud-caked boots full of sand every day. Public programming and good, sound science are the goals.

Also critical is the understanding that Indiana Dunes is more than the beach in the summer. Indiana Dunes is a year-around destination with opportunities for the highest quality national park experience anytime. The Every Kid in a Park program provides a park pass for all public lands to fourth graders and their families, Find Your Park challenges us all to know where our public spaces are located.

Here we are not alone in providing our visitors with outdoor places to refresh and rejuvenate. Our county and municipal park partners invite you in as well. Indiana Dunes State Park invites you over to enjoy one of the nation’s best state parks. Park partners like the National Parks & Conservation Association, Dunes National Park Association, Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Save the Dunes and the Shirley Heinz Land Trust collaborate in our region to create this amazing system of protected public open space as our best outdoor classrooms. You can enjoy your national park from the gunwale of a voyageur canoe, the wind of a South Shore Line train and anything and everything in-between. However you decide, we hope to see you here during this important 2016 anniversary year and let me know what you think.

Paul Labovitz, Superintendent

paul.labovitz@nps.gov
In July 1982, the Friends of Indiana Dunes was established from within the growing number of volunteers at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. This not-for-profit organization pledged to help enhance and foster understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Indiana Dunes through financial and volunteer support. That same year, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore terminated the publishing of the Singing Sands Almanac. In 1985, the Friends revived this quarterly publication with the noted naturalist and author, Glenda Daniel, as editor. The Friends continued to publish the Singing Sands Almanac through the Summer 2006 issue. We are happy to provide funds to print this special anniversary edition.

In August 1986, the Friends of Indiana Dunes became a recognized 501(C)3 corporation. This designation brought greater recognition and growth to our organization and allowed us to begin to provide support to the Indiana Dunes State Park as well as to the national lakeshore. Through fund raisers, grants and generous donations from our members, the Friends have been able to provide financial support for a variety of special events and programs throughout the past years. In 2016, we are pleased to provide this support to many of the programs that celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. The Friends of Indiana Dunes encourage you, the visitor, to enjoy Holiday Traditions, Maple Sugar Time, Midsummer, the 20th Annual Friends Native Plant Sale, Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, the Great Lakes a concert by singer Lee Murdock, and other family oriented activities in the coming year.

Our gratitude to the many visitors, organizations, volunteers, partners, neighbors, employees, and the many individuals who have cared for this special place! May it be a special 100th birthday for the National Park Service and wonderful 50th for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. We want to call out some of the partners involved in planning and implementing the programs and projects lined up for 2016.

Dunes Learning Center
Dunes National Park Association
Indiana Landmarks
Save the Dunes
Prairie Club
Indiana DNR
National Parks Conservation Association
Porter County Tourism
Field Museum
Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Portage Parks Department
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Porter County Museums Associations
Coffee Creek Conservancy
East Troy Electric Railroad
Eastern National
Gary Department of Green Urbanism
Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association
Save the Tunes
Volunteers
Student Conservation Association
Chicago State University
Indiana Geological Survey
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5
Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
Field Station Cooperative Preschool
Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
Indiana Dunes Tourism
South Shore Convention and Visitor Bureau
Indiana Dunes State Park
LaPorte County Tourism
Peggy Notebart Nature Museum
Portage Parks Department
Gary Parks and Recreation Department
Westchester Historical Society
Indiana University Northwest
For Goodness Sake Productions
Wilderness Inquiry
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Save the Tunes
Indiana & Chicago Audubon Societies
Great Lakes Research & Education Center
U.S. Geological Survey
Discovery Charter School
Lake Hills Elementary School, Michigan City
Friends of Robinson Lake
Izak Walton League
The Nature Conservancy
Image Makers Photography
United Urban Network
Miller Beach Arts and Creative District
Calumet Region Photo Club
Charter School of the Dunes
Urban Waters Coalition

A Note from our Friends

FRIENDS OF
Indiana Dunes

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Alternative Transport

Life is hard. The train is easy.

This anniversary year will see the debut of two new, hassle-free ways to get to the national lakeshore. You’ll be able to skip full parking lots on weekends by bringing your bike on the South Shore Railroad or by taking a free weekend shuttle from some South Shore stations directly to national lakeshore beaches.

In April, the South Shore Railroad will begin a pilot program that will retrofit three cars with bike racks. Each car will be equipped with 25-35 specially-designed racks. This service will only be offered on weekends and cyclists must use stations with high-level boarding platforms. This is not a permanent solution, but one intended to tide the railroad over until new cars can be purchased with bike racks. For more information on this program, contact the railroad directly at www.nictd.com/contact-us.

But you don’t need to bring a bike to avoid full parking lots and reduce your carbon footprint. The national lakeshore will operate two, 16-passenger shuttles on weekends from 10:00 am–6:30 pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day. An East Shuttle will pick up at the South Shore Station in Beverly Shores and travel to Lakeview, Kemil Beach, and Dunewood Campground. A West Shuttle will pick up at the South Shore’s Miller Station and stop at the Douglas Center, Lake Street Beach and the City of Gary’s Marquette Park.

Purchased through a Ticket to Ride grant from the National Park Foundation, the shuttles run on cleaner-burning liquid propane and are provided in partnership with the Dunes Learning Center and South Shore Railroad. For more information, contact the park’s information desk at 219-395-1882 or go to the park webpage at: www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/directions.htm.

DNPA

The Dunes National Park Association (DNPA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Paying homage to the past, DNPA is the 21st Century organization that takes its name from a group formed in Chicago in 1917 to advocate for a national park on Indiana’s coast.

Today, more than 2 million people visit and enjoy Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore each year, free of charge. Dunes National Park Association wishes to help Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore foster a climate of partnering that achieves park goals and relevant community/regional goals. DNPA works closely with community organizations, business leaders, governments, and elected officials to encourage investment in the park, strengthening the economic benefits the park provides to the community, and reinforcing the benefit of protecting the parks resource values to the region.

For more information on how you can be a park supporter through DNPA check the website at: http://www.dunesnationalpark.org.

Top Visitor Questions

Where is the beach?
The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations within the national and state parks. See map on back.

Where may I climb a dune?
Most of the park trails cross over forested dunes. You must stay on a designated trail when you walk on any dune to protect this fragile resource.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile Dune Succession Trail. The new Miller Woods Trail extension traverses the dunes to Marquette Park. 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 due to water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas, and you must determine what is safe for you. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach and Indiana Dunes State Park. 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 take my pet with me for a hike?
Yes. The national lakeshore has over 40 miles of hiking trails. Pets restrained by a leash (6’ or less) are permitted on most park trails. Pets are prohibited on the Great Marsh Trail, Glenwood Dune Trail, and at the Nature Play Zone. Pets are only permitted on the beach east of the Kemil access point.

The Glenwood Dunes Trail (intersection of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14. Hike with others and stay on designated trails for your protection and that of park resources. Trail maps are available at the two park visitor centers and the park web page.

Do you have a campground?
Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open the last Friday in April through the third Sunday in October and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores (see map on back). Its 66 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of $18.00 per night. Credit or debit card ONLY. No cash or checks accepted.

The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available.

Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?
Yes! Ask a ranger at the Visitor Center to help you select the free Junior Ranger or Junior Explorer program that best fits your visit. There are three Junior Ranger books to guide you on adventures through several park locations. We also offer the Beachcomber Junior Explorer program if you have just a short time at the beach; other Junior Explorer activities are offered at many special events. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up Junior Ranger and Junior Explorer materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Douglas Center, or download them at www.nps.gov/indu/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm, or ask a ranger.

Are there two Indiana Dunes Parks?
Yes, in addition to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, there is Indiana Dunes State Park. The state park is located next to the national park, and features towering dunes, miles of beautiful beach and trail and a modern campground. Be sure to make a visit.

DNPA members unveiling a South Shore painting by Mitch Markovitz.
1. Paul H. Douglas Center: For Environmental Education
The ponds, open dunes, and oak savanna habitats in Miller Woods provide abundant wildlife and dramatic scenery. The extension trail to Lake Michigan features beautiful views of small ponds nestled among wooded dunes, and teems with wildflowers in the spring and summer. Families can enjoy the Nature Play Zone. The center has interactive exhibits to explore.

2. West Beach
West Beach is a great destination, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Enjoy 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. Light food service available during the summer.

3. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk has an accessible fishing pier, a rehabilitated boardwalk, various bike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that contains a food service area.

4. Bailly/Chellberg
Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era farmstead. Enjoy Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Minöle Prairie, Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

5. 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.

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

7. Dunewood Campground
Dunewood is one mile south of Lake Michigan and features 66 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. Credit card or debit card only, no cash or checks accepted. Regular season dates are the fourth Friday in April through the third Sunday in October.

8. Mount Baldy
Mount Baldy (Temporarily closed) Hike the trail to the top of the nation’s tallest sand dune. Mount Baldy, at 131 feet tall, provides stunning views of Lake Michigan and the shoreline. Your part in protecting the park. Stay on designated trails and avoid walking on plants. To reach the summit, you must first follow the trail back down.

9. Water Safety
Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rough waters occur frequently during periods of high wind and make it unsafe to enter the lake. 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. There are no lifeguards at the national lakeshore beach during the fall, winter, and spring.

10. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk
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