

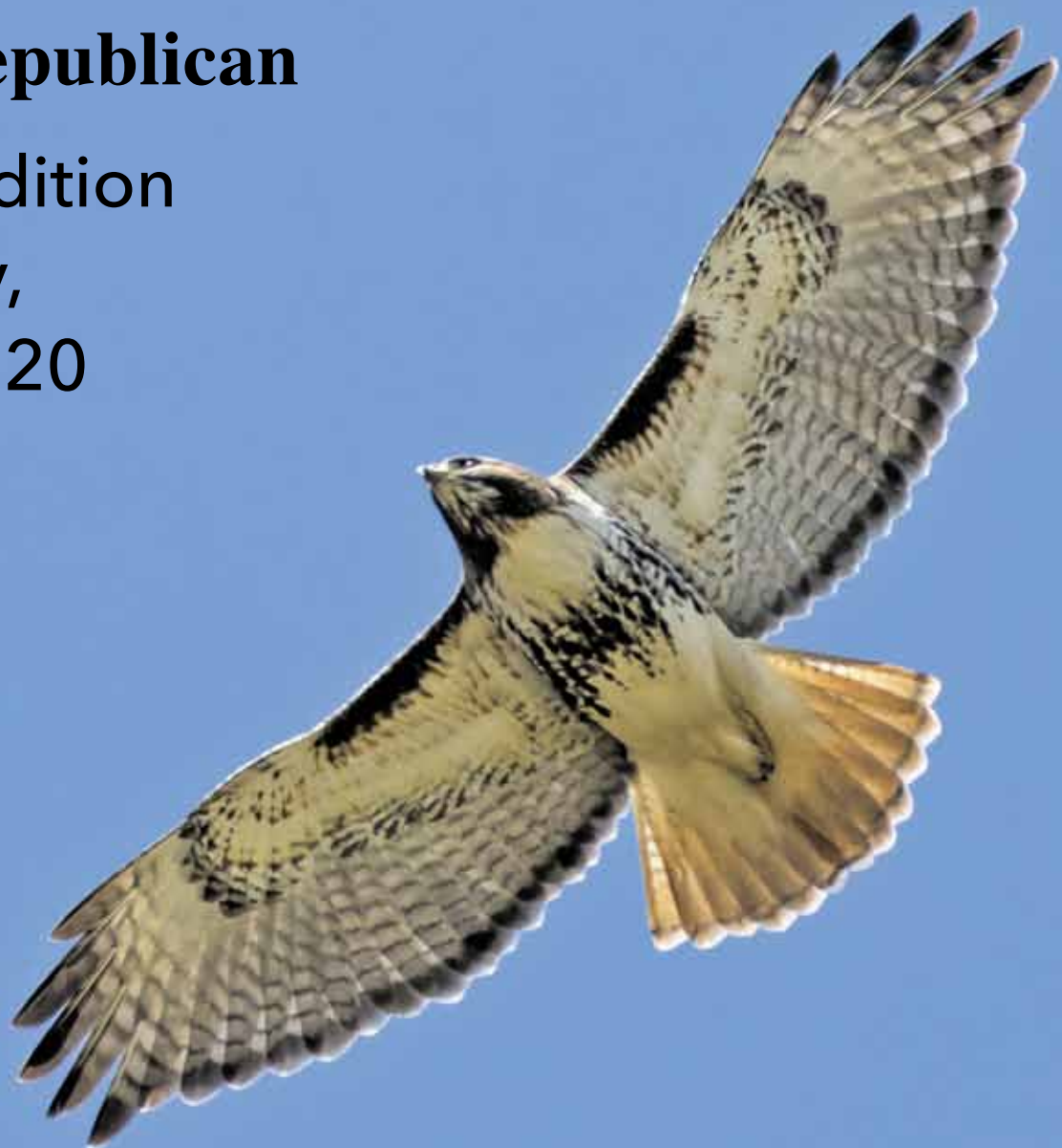
Welcome to my home...

Versailles State Park

Supplement to
The Versailles Republican

36th Annual Edition

Thursday,
May 21, 2020



Special information for 2020

The State of Indiana is moving into Stage 3 of Governor Eric Holcomb's "Back on Track" Indiana plan. If health indicators remain positive, the state will continue to advance to Stage 4 on June 14. Visit <https://backontrack.in.gov> to review guidelines for each stage.

Although the situation may change, here is the latest information you need to know regarding your next visit to Versailles State Park:

All Indiana state parks are collecting gate fees. See page 3 for fees and information related to Versailles.

All trails are open, including hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails.

Day-use restrooms are open. Campgrounds and

the camp store will open with restrictions on May 24. Gov. Holcomb says, "Hoo-siers should follow posted restrictions and practice social distancing," during all recreational and camping activities at Indiana State Parks.

Indoor and outdoor public programs and current events are postponed through May 31. The next public activity scheduled at Versailles is a Stargazing opportunity set for the evening of Saturday, June 27. See page 7 for all 2020 special events. Follow DNR social media accounts to participate in virtual activities being shared throughout the state.

The Nature Center is open on the park's summer schedule, mainly weekends and holidays. Follow the

park on Facebook for Nature Center updates.

Playgrounds are closed with hopes of opening soon. Shelters and recreation buildings are closed with plans to open on June 1. See page 3 for information about reserving a park shelter or building.

To stay updated on DNR property and recreation information, visit <https://www.in.gov/dnr/> and click on the "What's open..." button. The website is being updated on a weekly basis.

The Versailles park office remains closed to the public. Plans for a phased reopening are being made. Call the office at 812-689-6424, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with further questions.



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Two white-tailed deer graze near a park road in March.

Take it slow

Drive with caution through park grounds and obey all speed limits. Families with children frequently walk the roads and a variety of wildlife graze near and cross roads regularly. Conservation officers patrol park roads.

Besides safety, slowing down allows you to relax, enjoy the tranquil scenery, and see more wildlife. Aren't those some of the major reasons we visit our state parks?

On the cover

A red-tailed hawk soars overhead on a sunny day in March 2020.

"I captured this image in the afternoon as I was paddling back to the boat ramp following a trip up Laughery Creek," says Jared Rogers, assistant editor for Ripley Publishing Company newspapers.

Even though the afternoon light was harsh, Rogers says, "I like how the sunlight gives a glow to the hawk's outline against the blue sky."



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Renegades, Sept. 11, 7-11 pm

Linda Smith Band, Sept. 12, 7-11 pm

Jason Wells Band, Sept. 18, 7-11 pm

Bourbon Road Band, Sept. 19, 7-11 pm

**BRING THIS AD & RECEIVE \$1.00 OFF
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www.friendshipfleamarket.com

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Cards Accepted*



Fees and information

Annual Entrance Permit: \$50
 Annual Entrance Non-Resident: \$70
 Annual Pedestrian/Bicycle: \$10
 Golden Hoosier Passport: \$25
(For those 65 years of age and older)

Daily Indiana Resident Gate: \$7
 Daily Non-Resident Gate: \$9
 Daily Pedestrian/Bicycle: \$2

Swimming pool admission: \$3/day

Annual Motorized Lake Permit: \$25
 Annual Non-Motorized Lake Permit: \$5
 Kayak rental: \$8/hr., \$20/day
 Tandem kayak rental: \$12/hr., \$25/day
 Canoe/rowboat rental: \$5/hr., \$20/day

Annual Off-Road Cycle Permit: \$20
 Daily Off-Road Cycle Permit: \$5

Annual Horse Tag: \$20
 Daily Horse Permit: \$5

Shelter rental: \$25-100

Recreation Building rental: \$79.50-150
*(Call 866-622-6746 or visit
 camp.in.gov for reservations)*

Hunting and fishing licenses: varies
 Online: inhuntfish.com
 Phone: 877-463-6367

Camping: See page 4

Contact Versailles State Park
 812-689-6424

Versailles State Park
 1387 E US 50, PO Box 205
 Versailles, IN 47042

Office hours*

Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Camp store hours*

Sun. - Thur., 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fri. - Sat., 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*hours subject to change,
 call ahead if planning a trip



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Your next family gathering could be hosted at one of the park's picturesque shelters, like Heron's Point shelter along the banks of Laughery Creek, pictured above. Visit www.camp.in.gov or call 866-622-6746 to reserve a shelter after May 31.

The park has six unique shelters: Heron's Point, Cedar Grove, and Schimmerhorn shelters along Laughery Creek; Lakeview shelter by Versailles Lake, Trailside shelter hidden in shady woods, and Oak Grove shelter located on the hill near the campgrounds. There are also many picnic sites scattered throughout park grounds available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Welcome to Versailles!

Please visit our local businesses!

Versailles Historical Walking Tour: www.mainstreetversailles.com

**Farmers Market
 on the Square**

Every Saturday 9—noon

June 6—Sept 19

**Local produce, meat, eggs, flowers,
 baked goods, crafts and more!**

**Workouts
 on the Square**

Every Saturday 8:15—9am

June 6—Sept 19

**Yoga, Bootcamp and more
 \$5. See website for schedule!**



www.mainstreetversailles.com

812-565-8018

facebook.com/mainstreetversailles

Summer Events: Watch our Facebook page for updates.

Reservations available year-round for campsites

To make a camping reservation, call 866-6CAMPIN (866-622-6746) or go online to make reservations at www.camp.in.gov. These are the only two ways to make reservations. Campers can make reservations Monday through Friday from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and Saturday and Sunday between 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. You can log on to the internet 24 hours a day. Campsites can be reserved as early as six months in advance to the date of arrival and as late as noon on the date of arrival.

When you make reservations you will need the following information:

1. Arrival and departure date.
2. Name, address and phone number.
3. Type of camping equipment you will be using (tent, pop-up, RV, etc.). With an RV you will need to know the total length of the rig from the front to the back, including the tow rig.
4. Number in your party.
5. Method of payment (Visa or Master Card). Money orders are accepted if you are making a reservation 15 days or more before the date of arrival.

6. Class A Campsites are \$23 per night (Sun.-Wed.) and \$30 (Thu.-Sat.). Holidays are \$33 a night with required three night minimum. Tax is added to those prices.

There is no fee for making a reservation. You can reserve as many campsites as you like; all names are needed for the people reserving the campsites. The entire rental fee must be paid at the time of the reservation.

If you cancel your reservation

You will have to call 866-622-6746. If canceling before 8:00 p.m. on the day before arrival, a \$10.00 cancellation fee is charged. If canceling after 8:00 p.m. on the day before arrival, a \$10.00 cancellation fee plus the first night rental fee is charged. No partial cancellation can be made. The entire reservations must be canceled.

A maximum of six people may occupy one campsite. Each site may have two tents or one camper and one small tent. Each campsite may have only one mode of transportation. The campground office is open daily from 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. beginning Memorial Day until Labor Day. All visitors must park in the visitor parking lot. You cannot set up for camping after 11:00 p.m.

even if you have reservations.

Class A campgrounds

Versailles State Park has 226 campsites with an electrical outlet, 30 amp service, fire ring, picnic table, and camper pad. There is a dump station and water hydrant in the immediate area for water, but NO water hookup. One camping unit per campsite; you may have one small additional tent and a dining fly per site. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Pets must be caged or kept on a leash no longer than six (6) feet and must be attended at all times. Please clean up after your pets! Generators and other similar noise-producing equipment may only be used from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Youth tent area

This is for youth group campers under 21 years of age. It is for tent camping only. Youth must have a minimum of 10 campers plus a sponsor. The cost is \$2.00 per person, per night. The area has picnic tables and a pit toilet. You can make telephone reservations with credit card only by calling 866-6CAMPIN (866-622-6746). No alcohol is allowed in the youth tent area.

Equestrian campgrounds

Each equestrian campsite at Versailles State Park has a tie-up available for up to six horses. A daily or annual Horse Tag is required for each horse. Bridle trails are open from dawn to dusk. Electric campsites are \$20.33 per night Sun.-Wed., \$23.54 per night Thu.-Sat., and \$26.75 per night on holidays.

Check out time

Check out time is 2:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and holidays. If you plan to renew your registration, please do so by 10:00 a.m.

Fires and firewood

Fires may be built only in the fire rings provided. Collecting firewood in state parks is prohibited. Firewood from Indiana may be used if all bark has been removed. All other firewood must bear the USDA and/or state compliance stamp.

Trash

The Versailles State Park has a "carry in/carry out" trash program. Trash bags are available at the main gate.

Park mission statement

The Versailles State Park shares the same mission as all Indiana State Parks: To conserve, manage, and interpret our resources while creating memorable experiences for everyone.

Vision: Excellence in stewardship, recreational diversity, interpretation, service and growth resulting in unique places that people respectfully use, enjoy and cherish.



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VERSAILLES, IN



*We aren't just another detail of
an event, we make the event!*

7th Annual Hassmer Fest scheduled for September 25-27

Hassmer Fest, a mountain bike festival at Versailles State Park, is set to be held for its seventh consecutive year from September 25-27. Festival goers can look forward to unlimited mountain biking opportunities, free camping, live music, kids events, cold beer, and a raffle in which all proceeds go towards developing and maintaining the trails at the park. Registration opens August 1. Register by visiting bikereg.com or bikesimba.org.

DINO events at VSP

Before the festival date arrives, the Motus DINO (Do Indiana Off-Road) Southern Indiana Triathlon is to be held Saturday, August 8 at 9 a.m. Registration is from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, and Saturday from 7:00-8:30 a.m.

Several options are available for participating athletes. The **Off-road Triathlon** involves a 1 km swim, 13.5 mi. MTB, and a 5 mi. trail run.

The **Off-road Duathlon** involves a 2.5 mi. run, 13.5 mi. MTB, and 5 mi. trail run.

The **Kayak Triathlon** involves a 2 km kayak, 13.5 mi. MTB, and a 5 mi. trail run.

The **DINO Versailles 5-mile Trail Run** involves the run only.

Relay team options exist for both triathlon options and the duathlon.

The swim portion is in the shape of a large triangle in the park lake, which is shallow and warm. The biking portion is one single lap on single-track trail. The run utilizes the park's hiking trails, with the most climbing taking place during the first mile, and the last mile being the flat-test with three creek crossings. Aid stations will be located at miles 1 and 4. Visit dinoseries.com for more complete route information.

For those new to off-road racing, a Beginner Racing Clinic is slated for Friday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m. The clinic will focus on transitions and provide advice specific to the Versailles course.

Finally, the SRAM DINO Mountain Bike Series race is scheduled for Sunday, August 9. This biking only race is open to all riders regardless of age or ability. A host of racing categories fit any rider wishing to ride the scenic trails of Versailles State Park, considered one of the best courses in the state.

For more information, rules, and to register for DINO races visit www.dinoseries.com.

The camp store is at your service



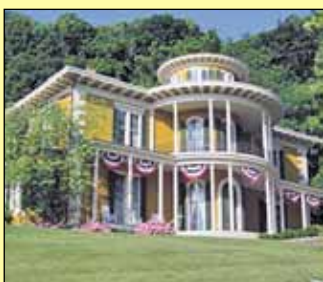
JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Versailles State Park's new and improved Camp Store is ready to serve your needs for your next adventure. VSP staff assumed operation of the store for the first time last season. Assistant property manager Garrett McAdams reports that he and his colleagues learned a lot about what items campers wanted and needed most during their stays. He hopes to keep essential items stocked so visitors can enjoy their stay without having to make a side-trip to the nearest big box store. Plus, there are plenty of fun items like hats, T-shirts, books, and snacks, too!

Local mountain-bikers invited to join SIMBA

The Southeast Indiana Mountain Bike Association, headquartered at Versailles State Park, has a goal to build new trails and maintain existing trails within the park. SIMBA hosts the annual Hassmer Fest, set for September 25-27 in 2020. Membership dues are \$20 per year, all of which goes to pay insurance, trail building supplies, and maintenance costs for the trails at Versailles State Park. A larger membership also gives SIMBA greater chances in receiving grant-funding awards. Dues are tax-deductible. Visit bikesimba.org for more information.

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Visit www.hillforest.org
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Pool offers relief from heat

Note: Contact the park office at 812-689-6424 and follow the park on Facebook for the most up to date information about pool operations this year.

Now celebrating its 34th year of operation, the swimming pool at Versailles State Park continues its popularity with a 25-meter pool, two water slides, a low diving board, children's pool and wading fountain.

The pool, considered by many to be the main reason to visit the park on a sweltering summer day, opened for operation in May 1987. Officially, its capacity is 615 swimmers and park officials say it has been filled to that level several times since its opening. In addition, the sun deck around the pool has enough space for 600 sun lovers trying for a perfect tan.

The beauty of the pool for a lot of parents is the fact that it is accommodating to small children. At the south end is a 35x15 foot children's pool, which sits beside the mushroom shaped "rain maker" wading fountain that showers down on children.

For a challenge for swimmers at the pool, there is a one-meter springboard and a 100-foot figure-eight water slide, one of the few and one of the largest at all of Indiana's state parks.

In keeping with these fine attractions, the rest of the pool facilities and staff are top-notch, too. Several behind the scenes upgrades have taken place in recent years, including newly installed pool deck grating, lifeguard stands, a

chlorinator, and a water heater. The facility is 3,700 square feet of space and includes men's and women's showers and locker rooms. There is also a first aid station, storage room, cashier's alcove, and equipment rooms.

The pool features a concession area that is open as long as the pool is open. Food and beverages are not permitted in the pool area, so the concession area has tables for its patrons.

The staff of lifeguards and attendants are prepared to handle any situation. Besides making sure that all is safe, they supervise swimmers and arrange for them to have scheduled rest breaks during the day. Swimming is allowed only when lifeguards are on duty.

The pool historically opens the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (weather permitting) with a full-time opening scheduled for mid-June. When the complex is open, hours will be 12 noon to 6 p.m., seven days a week until August. Days open during August are pending.

The daily swimming charge for the pool will be \$3 per person for ages three and older. Children at the age of two and younger will be admitted free of charge.

Swimmers should follow directions from lifeguards on duty. Swim suits are mandatory. No flotation devices are allowed and all children still in diapers must wear a swimming approved diaper to be allowed in the pool.

VSP welcomes new office manager

Welcome Debby Schrage, Versailles State Park's newest full-time staff member. Debby worked seasonally for the park last year and was named to the office manager position in December of 2019.

A good place for summer work

The Versailles State Park is a good place to acquire hands-on experience, and at the same time, work in a beautiful natural setting. Several college students work at the park in the summer.

The state park hires over 30 seasonal workers to work the pool, campgrounds, trails, and more. There are currently six full-time staff members. Anyone looking for summer work is encouraged to get in applications by March or April. Employment information can be found online at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/>.



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Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am - 9 pm • Fri. & Sat. 9 am - 10 pm



Enjoy your stay at Versailles State Park!

Be sure to come back for these special events:

July 25 American Legion "Taste of Versailles"

August 7-9 XTERRA & DINO Mountain Bike Series

September 11-12 Oktoberfest Street Festival - Batesville

September 12-20 Friendship NMLRA and Flea Markets

September 23-27 Versailles Pumpkin Show

October 2-3 Ertel Cellars Wine Festival

Looking for fresh produce, homemade jellies, etc.?

Main Street Versailles Farmers Market - Courthouse Square -

Saturdays 9-noon, June 6-Sept. 19

Ripley County Farmers Market - Buckeye St., Osgood -

Saturdays 8-noon, June-Oct.; Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm July-Sept.

Also take time to see:

Milan '54 Hoosiers Basketball Museum, Indiana Wine Trail, John Hunt Morgan Trail, Southern Indiana Bicycle Trails, Regional Art Trails, Underground Railroad Trails, and more!



Stop by the Welcome Center in Versailles for more information:

220 East U.S. 50, Versailles

812-689-7431 • ripleycountytourism.com

Hit the trail!



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Beautiful sights and sounds, like this small, three-tiered waterfall, are found along the several types of trails in the park. There are eight miles of hiking trails, 20 miles of mountain biking trails, and 25 miles of equestrian trails.

Hiking is permitted on all trails, but hikers must yield to mountain bikers and horses. The equestrian trails are for horses brought to the park, as no horses are available for rent. See "Fees and information" on page 3 of this tab for fees related to mountain biking and horse riding.

Maps of all trails are provided at the park office and gate.

2020 special events

Saturday	June 6	National Trail Day
Sat. & Sun.	June 6-7	Free Fishing Days
Saturday	June 27	Stargazing opportunity
Thursday	July 2	Fireworks
Sat. & Sun.	August 8-9	Motus DINO Triathlon (registration required)
Fri. - Sun.	Sept. 25-27	Hassmer Fest
Saturday	Sept. 26	Free Fishing Day
Saturday	Sept. 26	National Public Lands Day
Saturday	October 31	Halloween Trick-or-Treat Campsite Decorating Contest





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Saturday 8 am - 1 pm
Closed Sunday



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U.S. 50 - Versailles

Turn right at the park entrance.
 Top of the hill on the right
(between the stoplight & Civista Bank)



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Friends help improve park facilities and forge new connections

The Friends of Versailles State Park, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, regularly raises funds to help beautify park grounds and improve facilities. Above, volunteers with the group are pictured with park staff at the pool in the summer of 2019, when the Friends installed new umbrellas they purchased for the concession area. The Friends plant flowers each season at the park entrance station, office, and visitor center. Last year they also purchased an ADA accessible swing located at a playground near Campground Loop A. They also placed tables, chairs, and umbrellas near the Nature Center and Camp Store so that visitors can enjoy ice cream or snacks in a shady spot near the lake.



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Smokey the Bear is always a hit at Friends of Versailles State Park functions. He is pictured waving to children at the 2019 Pumpkin Show parade. The Friends group goes all out with their annual parade float and regularly wins awards for their efforts.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Halloween in the campgrounds

Halloween at the park is a perennial favorite for kids, adults, and staff alike. Campers go all out with spooky and fun decorations. Reserve a site well in advance if you'd like to camp throughout the weekend's festivities. Saturday, October 31 is the 2020 date set for trick-or-treating and the campsite decorating contest. The park also hosts an annual Halloween food drive at the entrance gate throughout October. Follow the Versailles State Park and the Friends of Versailles State Park on Facebook for more information as the time nears.



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

Friends explore an old stone structure during a "first Saturday hike" last winter.

New members welcome

The Friends of Versailles State Park regularly welcomes new members who enjoy supporting and recreating at the park. In addition to fundraising and recreational activities like monthly hikes, the group holds quarterly membership meetings. Annual memberships are open to individuals (\$15), families (\$25), and sponsors (\$100). Lifetime memberships are also open to individuals (\$150) and families (\$250). Registration brochures are available at the park office during open hours.

Lake ideal for fishing, boating

Versailles Lake is 230 acres and great for boating or fishing. The lake supports crappie, catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, carp, and suckers.

You must have an Indiana fishing license if you are 18 years of age or older. Indiana residents born before April 1, 1943 do not need

a fishing license. Licenses are sold at the park office.

Rowboats and canoes can be rented for \$5 per hour or \$20 for the day, plus tax. Kayaks can be rented for \$8 per hour or \$20 for the day, plus tax. Tandem (double) kayaks can be rented for \$12 per hour or \$25 for the day. Life jackets are re-

quired and are furnished for all boat rentals.

If you bring your own boat, you will need to purchase an Annual Lake Permit. Annual Lake Permits for motorized boats are \$25 and for non-motorized are \$5. Only electric trolling motors are allowed on the lake.



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

The park lake is one of the most scenic areas around. Slow down and take a look on your next drive through the park, or better yet, explore it by boat!

Welcoming native wildlife

Volunteers with the Friends of Versailles State Park built nesting boxes for the native Eastern bluebird over the winter. The new boxes replaced old ones and additional boxes were placed around the park. Have you seen any bluebirds this year?

Many types of birds utilize cavities for nesting. Bluebirds, tree swallows, chickadees, house wrens, and invasive house sparrows will all readily use man-made boxes in addition to old woodpecker and other natural holes.

Bluebirds will raise as many as three broods per year with mom and dad both helping feed young a steady diet of insects.

JARED ROGERS PHOTO



New park land: *Bradt Natural Area*



Versailles State Park's recreation capacity expanded 83 acres last fall thanks to a land donation by Hale V. Bradt and his family.

Bradt is pictured at left speaking to attendees last November when the Indiana DNR dedicated the property and officially opened it to the public. Hale V. is the grandson of F. Hale and Lizzie Bradt, the original family owners of the land. F. Hale was an educator and served as superintendent of the Versailles school in the early 1900s.

Bradt Natural Area is located off of US 50 and County Road 300 East and has three trails for public use through a mixture of prairie, woodland, and wetland habitats. The Bradt family also donated interpretive signage to enrich visitor experience at the area. All park rules apply.

JARED ROGERS PHOTO

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Group Camp great for large parties, reunions

Planning a large gathering, family, or friends reunion? Versailles State Park features excellent group camping facilities in a pristine atmosphere. The facility is stocked and ready to open on June 1, 2020 with social distancing guidelines in place.

The Laughery Group Camp features 12 cabins with 10 single beds in each cabin, accomodating up to 120 people. These are not family cabins; they are reserved only for groups. Each cabin has electric, but is not heated. Bring your own linens. There is a central shower house with bathroom facilities, as well as a dining hall, kitchen, and recreation hall. The kitchen has a large stove, walk-in refrigerator, walk-in freezer, reach-in refrigerator, and reach-in freezer. The dining hall seats 120 people.

Groups are responsible for cleaning the camp prior to departure. Each group must bring their own cleaning supplies, with the park furnishing brooms, mops, garbage bags, and toilet paper. When you are ready to check out, please notify the park office at least one hour in advance. Upon checking out, a park employee will inspect the facility with you.

To reserve Laughery Group Camp, call 866-6CAMPIN (866-622-6746) or visit www.camp.in.gov. The rate is \$240 per night.

History of Versailles State Park

In August of 1934, the National Park Service announced plans to develop a federal park on 1,700 acres of marginal Ripley County farmland. The following January, more than 200 young men known as Company 596 arrived to begin work. After building barracks, a mess hall, an administration building, and a recreation building, the CCC crew developed the park through tree planting, native stone masonry, wood construction, road construction, watershed and erosion control, and water construction projects. Most of their original work is still present throughout Versailles State Park. To-

day the park is 6,071 acres, making it the second largest state park in Indiana.

The dam was built in 1954 across Laughery Creek to form Versailles Lake, which served as a water source for Versailles and recreation area for visitors to the park. A swimming pool complex opened in 1987. Laughery Creek runs through the park, slowly carving its way through Silurian reef limestone, creating rugged cliffs and exposing fossil-rich, 475-million year old Ordovician rock. The park's beautiful hardwood forests provide habitat for songbirds and a variety of wildlife.

Firewood on DNR Properties

There are 140 known pests and pathogens that can be moved in firewood. To conserve Hoosier forests and campground shade trees, please adhere to a few rules. You can bring firewood from any tree species into a state park, reservoir, state forest, or state fish and wildlife area if:

- It is from your home in Indiana and all bark has been removed. Remove a half-inch of sapwood beneath the bark, too, if possible.
- It is bundled and bears a USDA compliance stamp.
- It is purchased from a local firewood vendor outside the property and has the state compliance stamp.
- It is purchased from the property camp store or on-site firewood vendor and has the state compliance stamp.
- The firewood is kiln-dried scrap lumber with no bark.

Visit firewood.dnr.in.gov for more information



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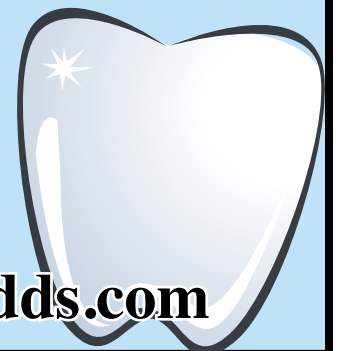


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How can I spot more wildlife?

Versailles State Park is home to numerous wildlife. The Wilderness Society offers the following advice for increasing your chances to spot more species:

- Many animals feed at dawn and dusk. The two hours after sunrise and before sunset are prime viewing times.
- Many bird species migrate in spring and fall, offering a window to see them as they pass through.
- Move slowly and quietly; better yet, pick a comfortable spot to sit still. Listen closely to your surroundings.
- Bring along a good pair of binoculars.
- Blend in by wearing earth tones rather than bright colors.

It is also of the utmost importance to let wildlife stay wild. Refrain from offering food, keep a safe distance, and practice "Leave No Trace" principles while visiting parks and other natural areas. Good luck out there!

Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Plan ahead and prepare;
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces;
3. Dispose of waste properly;
4. Leave what you find;
5. Minimize campfire impacts;
6. Respect wildlife; and
7. Be considerate of other visitors

For more information, visit LNT.org.



JARED ROGERS PHOTO

The lake is full of surprises: This ring-billed gull visited the park lake in December. The lake is a popular stopover site for migrating birds in addition to the dozens of species that call it home all year. Bring binoculars for a closer look!

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Sunset over Versailles Lake, taken from the bridge in June of 2019

JARED ROGERS PHOTO



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