

# Versailles State Park

Indiana's Second Largest Park



**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition Thursday, May 23, 2024**  
Supplement to The Versailles Republican

Ripley Publishing Company, Inc. • 115 S. Washington St., Versailles, IN 47042 • 812-689-6364 • [www.ripleynews.com](http://www.ripleynews.com)



# Discover Versailles

Visit our historic square via the Busching Bridge Trail from the park for food, shopping, bike rentals, splash pad, and events!

## Music on the Square

June 5, 22; July 3, 20, 31;

Aug 17; Sept 7

7-9 pm

Piano Concert every Friday, 12-1 pm

## Farmers Market on the Square

Saturdays, June - Sept

9am-noon

Open Mic, 2nd Sat each month

## Courthouse Days - June 22

5K, Car Show, Live Music

**Historic Walking Tour and more events available at**

**[www.mainstreetversailles.com](http://www.mainstreetversailles.com)**



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About Our Cover...

The cover photo along with the other wildlife photos throughout this edition of the Versailles State Park 2024 supplement to The Versailles Republican feature photos taken by Carson Hughes, local teen photographer, who lost his life in a tragic accident in The Versailles State Park Lake in March of this year. He was an up-and-coming photographer known to thousands who admired and purchased his work. This 40th edition of Ripley Publishing Co.'s Versailles State Park special section is dedicated to the memory of Carson and the many lives he touched in his short time on earth. He was a one-of-a-kind encourager to those he came in contact with and will forever be remembered. To find out more, go to the website his family has created CarsonHughesPhotography.com. #BeLikeCarson

Photos were submitted by Carson's parents, Jason and Mandy Hughes.



Above left: Picture of “Willow” – Carson quotes “What a lovely encounter I had with this fawn at Versailles State Park.”

Above right: Picture of “Guardian in the Rain” – Carson quotes “Bald eagle drenched in a summer shower.... This park will always have a special place in my heart, it is really what got me hooked on wildlife photography. I just want to show people what all this wonderful place has to offer!”



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## 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:  
\$10/hr., \$30/day  
Tandem kayak rental: \$15/hr., \$40/day

Canoe/rowboat rental: \$10/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: \$30-50

Hunting and fishing licenses: varies  
Online: [inhuntfish.com](http://inhuntfish.com)  
Phone: 877-463-6367

**Camping: See page 6**

**Contact Versailles  
State Park**

812-689-6424  
Versailles State Park  
1387 E US 50, PO Box 205  
Versailles, IN 47042

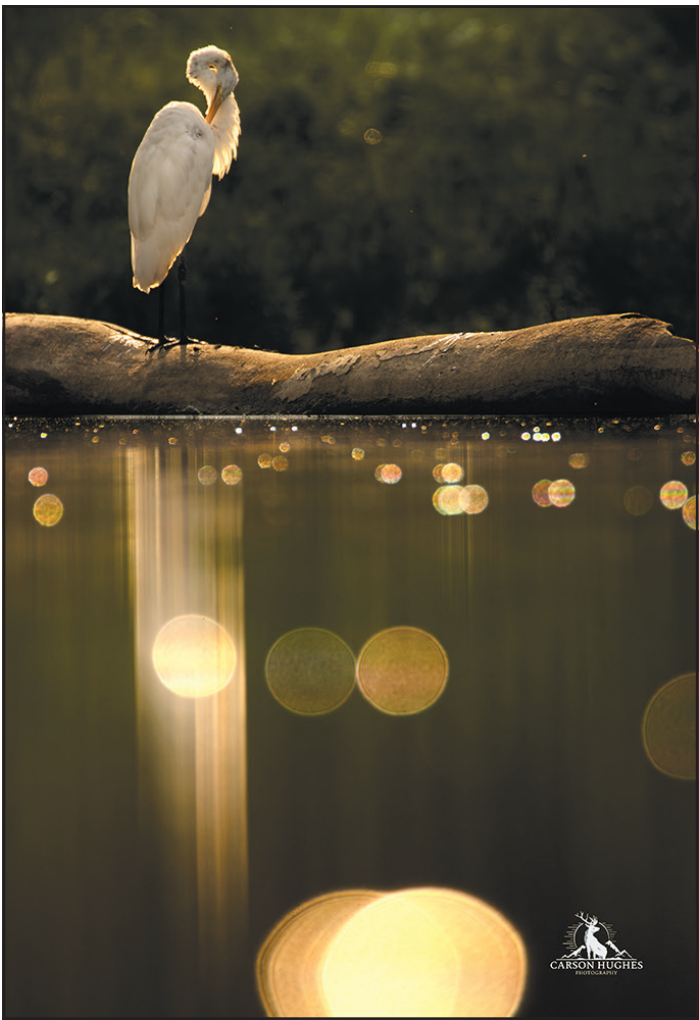
**Office hours\***

Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Camp store hours\***

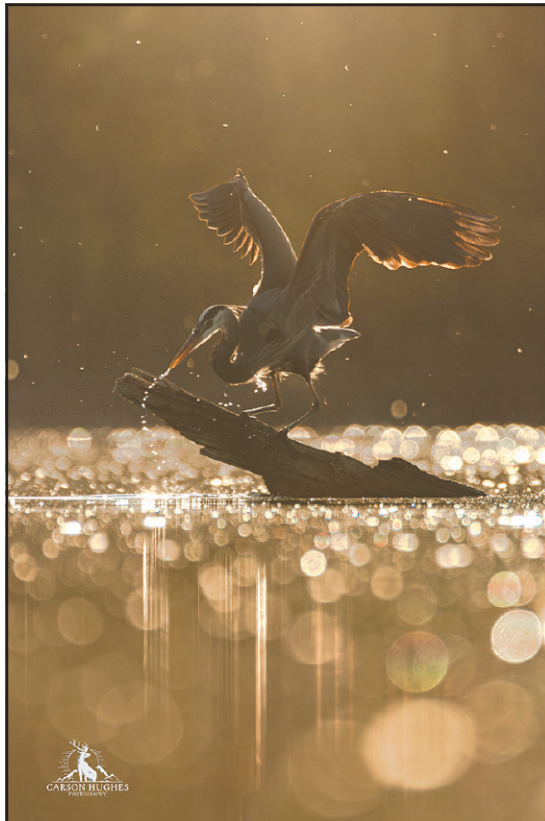
Sun. - Thur., 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Fri. - Sat., 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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



Picture of “Golden Moment” – Carson quotes “This beautiful Great Egret is enjoying a golden moment as it’s cleaning its wings while sunning on a log.”





Photos left to right.

Picture of "Golden Wings" – Carson quotes "Great blue heron fishing for his next meal in the beautiful morning sun."

Picture of "Environmental Goose Courtship" – Carson quotes "The peacefulness of this photo is unmatched."

Picture of "Tomorrow is Coming" – Carson quotes "Little photo of the full moon I got the other day. Got to meet John Maxwell from Indiana DNR and Outdoor Indiana."

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# 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](http://www.camp.in.gov). These are the only two ways to make reservations. Campers can make reservations Monday through Friday from 2 pm to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and Saturday and Sunday between 2 pm 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 MasterCard). 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 a \$6 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

Reservations are able to be canceled. If you cancel 8 or more days before arrival a flat \$10 fee will be charged (per reservation that is canceled). If you cancel between 1 and 7 days before arrival then the first night's rental fee plus tax will be charged as a cancellation fee. If you cancel on or after the day of

arrival then you will have to pay the entire rental fee. No refunds will be given due to inclement weather.

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 lim-

ited 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.

CAMP.....Con't Pg. 7



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U.S. 50 - Versailles

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## Bradt Natural Area

Just east of the Versailles State Park entrance sign off of US 50 there is another area of the park that is just being opened to the public. The Bradt Natural Area takes the wilderness to farmland to managed parkland, the property has always provided resources for people and wildlife. This is the newest portion of the Versailles State Park now open to the public. The beauty along the trails bring a whole new side of the park to view.



# CAMP

Continued from Page 6

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, tax included.

## 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.



Picture of “Otter on a Log” – Carson quotes “Before this river otter crawled up on this log for a nap, this little guy put on quite the show for me! I spent around 1.5 hours in the water while 6 fish were caught in this little otters hunting session.”

## Nature Center - Camp Store

Our Nature Center and Camp Store have been incorporated into one building. This will allow the Nature Center to be open daily with the same operating hours as camp store.

## 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 an annual membership meeting.

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 and nature center during open hours.

## Volunteerism

“A Year to Volunteer” revisited us in August of 2021 to help complete 1400’ of ADA trail, build a ramp to the observation deck (built in August of 2020) and helped on numerous other projects.

# NMLRA NATIONAL SHOOTS

**JUNE 8-16 & SEPTEMBER 14-22, 2024**

**Don't have to be a member!**

**PUBLIC WELCOME**

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Picture of “Juvenile Eagle” – Carson quotes “This beautiful juvenile eagle is watching intently at its surroundings as it rests on a branch.”



Picture of “What’s In the Fog” – Carson quotes “Cormorants sitting on this log during a foggy morning.”



Picture of “Undistracted” – Carson quotes “Kayaked right next to these Great Egrets while looking for food and cleaning its wings.”

# Pool Hours

12pm - 6pm May 25 - Aug 3

12pm - 6pm Weekends in August - pending lifeguard availability.

Pool will be available for limited number of after hour private pool rentals. Individuals interested should contact the park office.

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2024

Thu. - Sat.	June 6-8	County Plein Air Paint Out
Saturday	July 6	Firework Show
Saturday	July 27	Christmas in July
Fri. & Sun.	Sept. 27-29	11th Annual Hassmerfest.
Saturday	Oct. 19	Halloween Spooktacular I
Saturday	Oct. 26	Halloween Spooktacular II
Saturday	June 29	Mammoth March

## Enjoy your stay at Versailles State Park!

Be sure to come back for these special events:

- June 6-8 Ripley County Plein Air Paint Out - Versailles State Park
- June 8-16 & Sept. 14-22 NMLRA National Shoot & Friendship Flea Markets - Friendship
- June 27-29 F.A.R.M. Antique Machinery Show - Osgood
- July 21-27 Ripley County 4-H Fair - Osgood
- July 27 American Legion “Taste of Versailles,” - Versailles
- September 21 Bricktoberfest - Osgood
- September 21 - October 27 Vogt Farm Pumpkin Festival Saturdays & Sundays only - Batesville
- September 25-28 Versailles Pumpkin Show - Versailles
- September 27-29 Hassmer Fest - Mountain Bike Festival at VSP
- October 4-5 Ertel Cellars Wine Festival - Batesville

Main Street Versailles Farmers Market - Courthouse Square - Saturdays 9-noon, June 1-Sept. 21

Ripley County Farmers Market - Buckeye St., Osgood - Saturdays 8-noon, June-Oct.; Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm July-Sept.

Don’t miss the Milan ‘54 Hoosiers Basketball Museum, Indiana Wine Trail, Southeast Indiana Coffee Trail, Southeast Indiana Bike Trails, Underground Railroad Trails, and more!



Stop by the Welcome Center in Versailles  
For more information on these and other events:

Ripley County Tourism Bureau  
220 East U.S. 50, Versailles

ripleycountytourism.com • Facebook.com/RipleyCountyTourism/



# 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](https://firewood.dnr.in.gov) for more information



Picture of “Versailles State Park Bridge” – Carson quotes “I never knew this bridge could take a picture to another level.”

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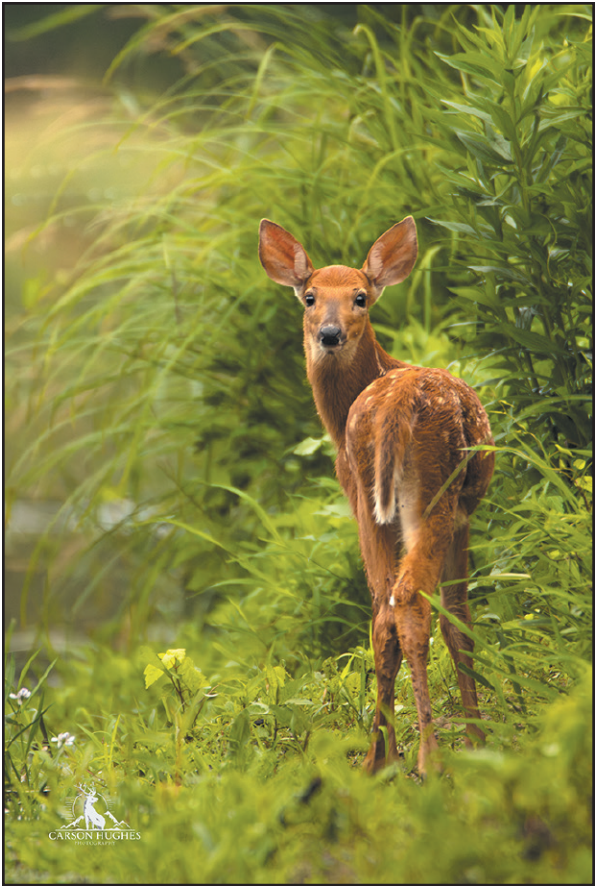
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Picture of “Gold Fills the Air” – Carson quotes “A great blue heron finding some peace and quiet during this beautiful spring morning at Versailles State Park!”

Picture of “Bambi” – Carson quotes “Man if only I was able to just look through these beautiful creature’s eyes for just some moments of their lives.”



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[www.intrailriders.org](http://www.intrailriders.org)



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