

Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail Guide

Have you heard the din of ten thousand sandhill cranes gathered during autumn migration? Watched rare Karner blue butterflies floating among wild lupine blossoms? Stood chest-deep in a field of prairie wildflowers? If not, it's high time you visited the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail!





"I have never seen dunes that equal them in any degree...the beauty of the plant life in their native garb is beyond description."

—Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service, 1916

This guide is published by Indiana Dunes Tourism and produced in cooperation with area partners and businesses. Creative direction and consultation provided by Fermata, Inc., www.fermatainc.com. Photographs provided by Jean Starr, Christine Livingston, Daniel Bruhn, Brenda Adams-Weyant, and Indiana DNR. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within. Indiana Dunes Tourism is not liable for damages arising from errors or outdated information. The *Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail* was funded in part by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Indiana Dunes Tourism
1215 State Road 49, Porter, Indiana 46304
1 (800) 283-8687
www.IndianaDunes.com

Contents

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 3 | The Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail | 33 | Moraine Region Itineraries |
| 4 | Trail at a Glance | 34 | Kankakee Region |
| 6 | Dunes Region | 40 | Kankakee Region Itineraries |
| 21 | Dunes Region Itineraries | 41 | Accommodations Listing |
| 22 | Moraine Region | 43 | Map |



Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail

No question about it—northwestern Indiana boasts beautiful beaches and stunning Lake Michigan shoreline. But there's far more to the Indiana Dunes region than surf and sand. Step beyond the beach, and you enter a wildlife-rich landscape of dunes, barrens, prairie, and wetlands.

Have you heard the din of ten thousand sandhill cranes gathered during autumn migration? Watched rare Karner blue butterflies floating among wild lupine blossoms? Stood chest-deep in a field of prairie wildflowers? If not, it's high time you visited the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail, which will guide you to more than 50 sites that showcase this region's greatest natural and cultural treasures.

Unlike a linear hiking or biking trail, the Discovery Trail allows you to set your own route and visit those sites that best fit your interests and timetable. Check out the itineraries for each region on pages 21, 33, and 40. From hiking and biking to fishing and boating, the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail offers outdoor recreation of all kinds, plus museums and historic sites that will immerse you in the region's cultural history. Along the way, you'll find great dining, shops, and lodging in the many welcoming communities of the Beyond the Beach area. With so many engaging sites to visit, the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail offers adventures and amenities for the entire family every week of the year. Come visit, and discover for yourself!

How to Use this Guide: The Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail encompasses three ecologically distinct regions—the Dunes Region, the Moraine Region, and the Kankakee Region. In this guidebook, we group Discovery Trail sites within the ecological region in which they are located. If you **open the flap on the back cover of this guide, you'll find a map** indicating all the Discovery Trail sites. In the guide, we provide driving directions to each site, which you can follow with the aid of a state road map. For visitors with GPS navigation systems, we provide both GPS coordinates and street addresses (where available).



The Trail at a Glance	Site Name	Region	Page Number	Fee	Culture			Nature				Recreation						Facilities		
					Gardens	Museum	Historic Site	Birdwatching	Wildflowers	Wildlife Watching	Nature Programs	Trails	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming Beach	Fishing	Paddling	Hunting	Information	Restroom/Portable
	Alton Goin Museum at Countryside Park	Dunes	11	N		X	X					H S B	X			X				
	Anderson's Vineyard & Winery	Moraine	25	N															X	
	Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area	Kankakee	36	N				X	X	X		H S			X		X			
	Bailly Homestead & Chellberg Farm (IDNL)	Dunes	13	N			X	X	X	X		H S	X					X	X	
	Brincka-Cross House and Gardens	Dunes	19	N	X				X			H								
	Broken Wagon Bison Farm	Moraine	30	N															X	
	Calumet Bike Trail	Dunes	13	N				X	X	X		H S B						X		
	Central Avenue Beach (IDNL)	Dunes	20	N				X	X				X		X			X		
	Century of Progress Homes (IDNL)	Dunes	18	N			X													
	Chesterton Bandstand & Historic Business District	Dunes	16	N			X												X	
	Chustak Public Fishing Area	Moraine	29	N				X	X	X		H			X					
	Coffee Creek Park	Dunes	17	N								H	X							
	Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve	Dunes	17	N				X	X	X	X	H S B	X		X			X		
	Cowles Bog (IDNL)	Dunes	14	N				X	X	X	X	H S						X		
	Deer Trail Park	Dunes	12	N				X	X	X		H S	X		X					
	Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery	Dunes	19	N		X	X										X	X	X	
	Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center	Dunes	8	N	X												X	X	X	
	Dunn's Bridge County Park	Kankakee	36	N			X	X	X				X			X				
	Forest Park	Moraine	27	N				X	X			H S	X					X		
	Foundation Meadows	Moraine	27	N				X	X			H S B	X				X	X		
	Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park	Kankakee	38	N				X	X	X		H S	X		X	X	X	X		
	Hawthorne Park	Dunes	15	N				X					X		X					
	Heron Rookery Trail (IDNL)	Dunes	20	N				X	X	X	X	H S			X					
	Imagination Glen Park	Dunes	12	N				X	X	X		H B MB	X		X	X		X		
	Indiana Dunes State Park	Dunes	15	Y			X	X	X	X	X	H S	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	Inland Marsh Trail (IDNL)	Dunes	10	N				X	X	X	X	H S	X							
	Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area	Kankakee	37	N				X	X	X		H S	X		X	X	X	X		
	Jerry Allen Waterfowl Management Unit	Moraine	31	N				X		X		H S					X			
	Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area	Kankakee	37	N				X	X	X		H S			X	X	X	X		
	Kankakee Sands	Kankakee	39	N			X	X	X	X		H S					X	X		

Site Name	Region	Page Number	Fee	Culture			Nature				Recreation						Facilities		
				Gardens	Museum	Historic Site	Birdwatching	Wildflowers	Wildlife Watching	Nature Programs	Trails	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming Beach	Fishing	Paddling	Hunting	Information	Restroom/Portable
Lake View and nearby beach access (IDNL)	Dunes	18	N				X			X	H			X	X			X	
LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area	Kankakee	38	N				X	X	X		H S				X	X	X	X	
Little Calumet River Trail (IDNL)	Dunes	12	N				X	X	X	X	H S			X					
Long Lake Public Access Site	Moraine	26	N				X								X				
Marquette Park	Dunes	8	N				X	X			H S	X		X	X	X		X	
Memorial Opera House	Moraine	29	N			X												X	
Miller Woods (IDNL)	Dunes	8	N				X	X	X	X	H S								
Mount Baldy (IDNL)	Dunes	20	N				X	X	X	X	H	X		X	X			X	
Ogden Gardens Park	Moraine	28	N	X															
Pinhook Bog (IDNL)	Moraine	24	N				X	X	X	X	H								
Portage Lakefront Park (IDNL)	Dunes	10	N				X	X		X	H S	X		X				X	
Porter Beach Area (IDNL)	Dunes	14	N				X						X					X	
Porter County Museum	Moraine	28	N		X	X												X	
Rogers-Lakewood Park	Moraine	26	Y				X	X	X		H S B	X			X	X		X	
S. Lake Michigan Water Trail	Dunes	9	N				X								X				
Salt Creek Public Fishing Area	Moraine	30	N				X	X	X		H			X					
Stage Coach Inn & Panhandle Depot	Moraine	32	N		X	X												X	
Sunset Hill Farm County Park	Moraine	25	Y				X	X	X	X	H S	X						X	
Taltree Arboretum & Gardens	Moraine	31	Y	X			X	X	X	X	H S	X						X	X
W. Beach Dune Succession Trail (IDNL)	Dunes	9	Y				X	X	X	X	H S	X		X				X	
Westchester Township History Museum	Dunes	16	N		X	X												X	X
Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area	Kankakee	39	N				X	X	X		H S	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Woodland Park	Dunes	11	N				X	X			H	X						X	X
Zona Wildlife Sanctuary	Moraine	24	N				X	X	X		H								

IDNL – Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Trails – H = Hiking, S = Cross-country skiing, B = Bicycling, MB = Mountain biking





The Dunes Region



*Beyond the Beach
Discovery Trail*

Stepping Beyond the Beach

Visitors from beyond the state of Indiana are often surprised to discover that Indiana not only has coastline, but that its coast is on Lake Michigan, the fifth largest freshwater lake in the world! And among visitors fortunate enough to know about this shoreline, many know it only for its beautiful beaches.

But just beyond those beautiful beaches lie some of the world's largest lakeshore dunes, created from the combined artistry of glacial deposits, lake currents, and wind. An incredible variety of plants and wildlife make their homes among these rolling dunes and in the mosaic of grassland, wetland, wooded, and open water habitats around them.

From Portage to Beverly Shores, the Dunes Region of the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail is packed with great sites to explore. Climb Mount Baldy, a "living dune" that stands roughly 125 feet high, and scan the skies for migrating birds. Walk among native wild lupine blooming along the Inland Marsh Trail at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore—and perhaps, if you are lucky, spot rare Karner blue butterfly caterpillars eating their leaves. Step back in time at the Dunes Region's many historic sites and museums, like the Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm. Explore the grounds of the stunning Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, or watch for shorebirds and waterfowl along one of the region's many lakeshore beaches. And that's just a sampling of the possible adventures awaiting you here.

Within the Dunes Region, the communities of Portage, Burns Harbor, Porter, Chesterton, Beverly Shores, and Pines welcome you. Take time out from your explorations to discover the many excellent restaurants, cafes, shops, galleries, and overnight accommodations these communities offer.



Site 1: Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center

Directions: Located on State Route 49, just south of the intersection with US Route 20.

Description: A visit to the recently built Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center will help orient you to the Beyond the Beach region and provide information to help you make the most of your visit. The visitor center is named in honor of Dorothy Buell, a tireless advocate for preservation of the Indiana Dunes. The visitor center offers a short orientation film, “The Indiana Dunes: Our Natural Wonder,” as well as exhibits and brochures about Porter County, Indiana Dunes State Park, and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Don’t miss the Artist-in-Residence exhibit, which features artwork inspired by the Indiana Dunes region. In the Visitor Center gift shop, you’ll find a great selection of local books and souvenirs. During business hours, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Memorial Day through Labor Day 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.), staff members are available to answer any questions and help you plan your explorations of the region.

Site 2: Miller Woods

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 20 west of State Route 51. About 1.3 miles west of State Route 51, turn north (right) on Lake Street and follow 0.6 miles to the trailhead. When the Douglas Center for Environmental Education is open, there is ample parking in the lot on the right side of the road before the overpass. Otherwise, continue down Lake Street past the overpass and park in a small lot on the left.

Description: Birders consider this 75-acre natural oasis amid the industry and urban environs of Gary among the best birding sites in the region. Black oaks dominate savanna woodlands that are home to 287 recorded species of plants and animals, including the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Ecologist Henry Cowles (see sidebar page 13) spent much time studying the Miller Woods area. Hike or ski the 1.1-mile Miller Woods loop trail, which leads past an overlook of a marsh that teems with wildlife, including rare blue-spotted salamanders and western chorus frogs.

Site 3: Marquette Park

Directions: Follow US Route 20 west of State Route 51. About 1.3 miles west of State Route 51, turn north (right) on Lake Street and follow 1.2 miles to Hemlock Avenue and turn east (right). Follow Hemlock Avenue 0.4 miles to Grand Boulevard and turn north (left). Follow Grand Boulevard one block to the park entrance.

Description: In 1921, the United States Steel Corporation donated lakefront lands along Gary’s eastern boundary to the City to provide recreational access to Lake Michigan. The Gary Parks Department developed this area into the first lakefront park in Lake County. In 1932, Lakefront Park was renamed Marquette Park in honor of the French explorer and missionary Pe’re Marquette. This 241-acre park offers 1.4 miles of Lake Michigan beaches, inland ponds, tall dunes, wetlands, a lagoon, indigenous oak savanna, and two historic Prairie School structures—the stately Recreation Pavilion and the Gary Bathing Beach Pavilion “Aquatorium” (located near a large, beachfront playground).

Lat: 41.6337 Long: -87.0539
1420 Munson Road, Porter, IN 46304
(800) 283-8687
www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/idnlvc.htm

Lat: 41.6061 Long: -87.2678
20 N. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46304
(219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu

Lat: 41.6195 Long: -87.2555
1 North Grand Boulevard
Gary, IN 46403, (219) 866-7099
www.gary.in.us/parks/default.asp





The Making of a Dune

The story of Indiana's dunes began thousands of years ago, during the last ice age. As the glaciers retreated north, they left immense deposits of glacial till (sand, gravel, and rocks) on Lake Michigan's northern shores. Since then, wind and water have eroded that till, and lake currents have carried sand grains to the lake's southern tip. Waves wash these sands onto dry land, forming beaches.

Wind carries this beach sand into the marram grass that grows just inland of the beach. The grass catches the sand grains, which pile up and form dunes. The marram grass thrives on these windblown sands, quickly sending out long shoots when sand covers it. Once a dune forms, other plants take root on the sheltered, lee side of the dune. Like marram grass, cottonwood trees tolerate an amazing amount of sand buildup, sending up new shoots as their trunks and branches are buried.

Site 4: Southern Lake Michigan Water Trail

Directions: This boating trail follows the Lake Michigan shoreline. Obtain a water trail map from the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for information about access points and safety precautions.

Description: This newly created water trail celebrates Indiana's shoreline along Lake Michigan. Some 35 miles of the lakefront are available for one-day or multi-day sea kayaking trips. Along the way, you'll find welcoming communities, places to camp, beautiful beaches, and the rich biodiversity of the dunes ecosystem. Traversing the Southern Lake Michigan Water Trail by sea kayak is not for the inexperienced paddler. Obstacles like steel pilings and massive boulders, plus rapid weather changes on the lake, can spell danger for paddlers. But for those with kayaking experience, the Southern Lake Michigan Water Trail offers a great way to experience the Indiana Dunes region.

Site 5: West Beach Dune Succession Trail

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 west of State Route 249. About 3.5 miles west of State Route 249, turn north on County Line Road. After crossing the railroad tracks, turn into the first road on your right to enter West Beach.

Description: Most of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Dune Succession Trail follows a boardwalk, so you can experience the dunes without struggling through sand (although you'll encounter 250 stairs!). As its name suggests, this 0.9-mile long trail is a great place to see ecological succession—from bare beach to wooded dune—at work. Numbered posts along the trail are part of a self-guided interpretive trail. You can pick up a trail brochure at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center. The Dune Succession Trail links with two other trails—the Long Lake Trail and West Beach Trail. In all, the three trails cover 3.6 miles.

Lat: 41.6325 Long: -87.1959
(219) 763-6060
www.greenwaysblueways.com



Lat: 41.6226 Long: -87.2086
North County Line Road, Portage, IN
46368 (219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu



City of Portage

With plenty of trails, parks, and recreational facilities, Portage is a haven for outdoor adventures. It's also got one of the only public marinas in the Beyond the Beach region, where you can launch onto Lake Michigan and dock your boat in the public slips. Instead of one centralized downtown area, Portage offers several pockets of shops, restaurants, and recreation sites. In Portage, you'll find gear for your outdoor adventures, a hot meal, and a comfortable bed after your day's outings. You can stroll along the city's beautiful Lakefront and Riverwalk (Site 7), or hike and bike its cross-town trails. Drawn to extreme sports? Take a wild ride at the city's state-of-the-art BMX bike track, Outback Mountain Biking Trail (Site 11), or skateboarding half-pipe. Portage delights both visitors and the many people who choose to make it their home.



Site 6: Inland Marsh Trail

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: From State Route 249, head west on US Route 12 for 2 miles. Trail is located on the south side of US Route 12.

Description: In just 2.6 miles, this trail in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore traverses a number of different, beautiful, and wildlife-rich habitats, including black oak savanna, Tolleston Dunes, and remnants of the Great Marsh. Black oak savanna along the trail hosts plenty of wild lupine—the sole source of food for the Karner blue butterfly, a federally-listed endangered species. The lupine blooms in late May, so that's a great time to see the butterflies. The lowland marshes along the trail were once part of the Great Marsh, which originally stretched over twelve miles from Gary to Michigan City. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore resource managers are working to restore these marshes. The trail may be indistinct in places, so carry a map and watch trail markings carefully.

Site 7: Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: From Interstate 94 head north on State Route 249. Follow the signs to steel mill and turn left at the second light. Once you pass over US Route 12, turn left at the stop sign. Go over the bridge and turn right at the next road. Follow this road to the park.

Description: Formerly an industrial site for National Steel, this 57-acre lakefront site opened in 2008. Managed jointly by the National Park Service and the City of Portage, this area of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore features an enclosed pavilion with an educational classroom, kitchens and restrooms, an accessible loop trail, and fishing pier. The pavilion is not only beautiful, but is Gold LEED certified, meaning that it was built with exemplary, energy-efficient environmental design and materials. A new concrete cap and handrails on the breakwater provide easy access for fishing, birdwatching, and sightseeing.

Lat: 41.6150 Long: -87.1927
US Highway 12, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 926-7561
<http://www.nps.gov/indu/>



Lat: 41.6310 Long: -87.1777
6150 US Highway 12, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-1675, www.ci.portage.in.us/depart-ment/division.php?fDD=8-192





Going With the Flow

Unlike most other waterways in the region, Salt Creek has never been significantly channelized—the creek still follows its natural, meandering course. Until the early 1900s, wetlands overspread much of the Beyond the Beach Region, and shallow waterways snaked through them. In the early 1900s, a large-scale program to convert the wetlands to farm fields began. Many of the region's waterways were straightened and deepened to move water downstream more quickly. Unlike a channelized stream, Salt Creek's winding path creates a mosaic of shallows, pools, currents, and eddies. These microhabitats shelter diverse and abundant aquatic life—from dragonflies to kingfishers and herons to salmon. You'll find several sites along the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail where you can explore Salt Creek, including Imagination Glen Park (Site 11) and Chustak and Salt Creek Fishing Areas (Sites 41 & 42).

Site 8: Woodland Park

Directions: Follow US Route 20 west of State Route 249 for 0.5 mile to Willowcreek Road. Turn south (left) on Willowcreek Road and follow 0.5 mile to the park entrance.

Description: This 64-acre park offers good wildlife viewing in a suburban setting. Crabapple trees draw cedar waxwings. Mature oaks shelter small mammals and songbirds, and native wildflowers attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds. A paved trail leads through a restored oak savanna forest, and interpretive panels along the way tell the story of the park's natural history and management. The park's restoration efforts won a federal Conservation and Native Landscaping Award in 2001. The park offers many developed amenities as well, including a community center (with banquet halls, gymnasium, and meeting rooms), skate park, pre-school, playgrounds, ball fields, picnic shelters, and a bouldering play area.

Site 9: Alton Goin Museum at Countryside Park

Directions: Follow US Route 6 west of State Route 149 about 4.5 miles to the museum entrance, located on the north side of US Route 6. The Camelot Bowling Lanes are located across from the park entrance.

Description: Located in Countryside Park and operated by the Portage Community Historical Society, the Alton Goin Museum houses many cultural artifacts from the Portage region. Nearby stands the timber-framed farmhouse of Charles and Elizabeth Trager. The Trager Farm Historic Restoration Project restored the house to its original late nineteenth/early twentieth-century style and was completed in 2006. A barn, milk shed, tool house, and outhouse complete the farm setting. While visiting the museum, be sure to explore the surrounding Countryside Park, which is bordered on its south side by the 10.4-mile Prairie Duneland Trail.

Lat: 41.5916 Long: -87.1871
2100 Willowcreek Road, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-1675, <http://www.ci.portage.in.us/departments/?fDD=8-0>



Lat: 41.5531 Long: -87.2115
5250 US Highway 6, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-8349
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inpchs/





Site 10: Deer Trail Park

Directions: Follow State Route 249 north of Interstate 94. Turn east onto Ameriplex Drive and drive approximately 0.75 mile to the Deer Park trailhead on the left side of the road.

Description: This small park, opened in 2007, offers many recreational activities, including hiking, cross-country skiing, and fishing on the Little Calumet River. The City of Portage Park Department did extensive restoration work at this site, removing non-native plants from the forest understory. Along the trail, you'll see bottomland forest in a state of recovery. Interpretive panels along the trail explain the restoration process and tell some of the park's ecological stories. From the trail, you can access the Little Calumet River, which has notable runs of Skamania steelhead trout, as well as bass and salmon, and is popular among fly anglers. Pick up Indiana Dunes Tourism's fishing guide for additional details about fishing throughout the region.

Site 11: Imagination Glen Park

Directions: Follow US Route 20, east of State Route 249. Turn south on Samuelson Road and drive about 0.8 miles, then turn east (left) on Portage Avenue. Follow Portage Avenue to the end at McCool Road, turn south (right) and enter the park.

Description: The largest park in the Portage Park system, 256-acre Imagination Glen Park offers softball and soccer complexes, a BMX race track, and the 10-mile Outback Mountain Bike Trail. Woodlands cover much of the property, and Salt Creek meanders through the center. Unlike many streams in the region, Salt Creek has not been channelized, so it offers natural habitat for aquatic plants and animals. The park includes several rare fens, with unique and uncommon assemblages of plant species. The Iron Horse Heritage Trail borders the southern boundary of the park, connecting Imagination Glen with Woodland Park.

Site 12: Little Calumet River Trail

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 149. About 1.4 miles from State Route 149, make a soft right on Oak Hill Road. Make a right on the first road (Howe Road) and travel about 0.75 miles to the trailhead on the right side of the road.

Description: The Little Calumet Trail, located in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, is part of a 3.9-mile network of hiking trails that connect the Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm, and the Dunes Learning Center. Pick up a trail map at the trailhead or the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center to guide your explorations. The Little Calumet River Trail passes through the Mnoke Prairie, 120 acres of restored tallgrass prairie—a once-widespread habitat, now rare in Indiana. The trail skirts the Little Calumet River valley, then crosses the river and follows a boardwalk through wet bottomlands before climbing to a hardwood forest and pine plantation.

Lat: 41.6087 Long: -87.1591
Ameriplex Drive, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-1675, <http://www.ci.portage.in.us/departement/?fDD=8-0>



I

Lat: 41.5904 Long: -87.1407
2275 McCool Road, Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-1675, www.ci.portage.in.us/departement/?fDD=8-0



Lat: 41.6203 Long: -87.0933
Howe Road, Porter, IN 46304
(219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu



I



Ecological Champions

From his first visit to the Indiana Dunes in 1896 until he retired in 1934, Dr. Henry Cowles explored the ecological processes at work in the Indiana Dunes. Here, he studied and documented the process of plant succession—the process by which the assemblage of plants and animals in a particular place changes over time. His studies brought international attention to the wonders of this region. Recognizing that activities like sand mining and industrial development were threatening this landscape, Cowles co-founded The Prairie Club in 1908 to push for protection of the dunes. His efforts helped establish Indiana Dunes State Park in 1925. In 1949, Dorothy Buell entered the struggle, founding the Save the Dunes Council to protect lakeshore habitats. With the indispensable help of Illinois senator Paul H. Douglas, the group's efforts paid off in 1966, when the U.S. Congress authorized the creation of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Site 13: Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 149. About 2.4 miles from State Route 149, turn south (right) on Mineral Springs Road. Travel about 0.75 miles to the parking lot on the right side of the road.

Description: These two historic sites sit nearly side-by-side within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Honore Gratien Joseph Bailly de Messein, the first known non-native resident of northwest Indiana, set up a fur trading post here in 1822. The main house has been restored to its 1917 appearance and is open for scheduled tours during the summer. The Bailly Cemetery is a 0.8 mile hike from the homestead. The restored Chellberg farmhouse looks much as it might have in the late 1800s and is open to the public during festivals, demonstrations, and scheduled ranger-guided tours. Check with the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for tour dates and times.

Site 14: Calumet Bike Trail

Directions: The trail runs parallel to US Route 12, between Mineral Springs Road and Mount Baldy. Parking is available at Mineral Springs Road, Calumet Dune Interpretive Center, Beverly Shores Depot, and at US Route 12 at the Porter/La Porte County Line.

Description: Bike, hike, or ski this 9.1-mile gravel trail, which skirts the southern boundaries of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park from Cowles Bog to Mount Baldy. Prairie habitat lines the trail, and late-summer wildflowers—like cardinal flowers, blazing stars, asters, fringed gentians, and great blue lobelia—color the landscape. Several species of snakes live here, including blue racers, little brown, and hognose snakes. Look for them basking along the trail's edge in the early morning, or on the move in autumn as they head to their winter dens. Restrooms are available at the South Shore Line Stations and Cowles Bog Trailhead.

Lat: 41.6239 Long: -87.0926
N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304
(219) 926-7561
<http://www.nps.gov/indu>



Lat: 41.6368 Long: -87.0871
(219) 465-3586
<http://www.indianatrails.org/Calumet.htm>



On the Wing—Bird Migration

Though summer may be the peak season for human visitors to northern Indiana, spring and fall are the peak seasons for seeing some of the 369 species of birds that spend time here. During these seasons, migratory birds fly to and from their northern breeding grounds, passing through this region in great numbers. In autumn, it's not uncommon to witness several thousand sandhill cranes gathered at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area (Site 50) to rest and feed. In spring, migrating hawks hug the lake's shoreline—watch for them from atop the tall dunes at Mount Baldy (Site 28) and West Beach (Site 5). Returning songbirds fill the woodlands, wetlands, and prairie habitats. While many pass through, more than 100 species stay to raise young, brightening the landscape through the summer months. Pages 4 & 5 of this guide suggest good birding sites along the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail. Pick up a bird guide at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Site 1).



Site 15: Cowles Bog

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 149. About 2.4 miles from State Route 149, turn north (left) on Mineral Springs Road. Right before the gatehouse at Dune Acres, turn right down a narrow gravel road to reach the trailhead.

Description: Don't miss the chance to see Cowles Bog, one of the great natural areas in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Remnant of a once-widespread wetland system, Cowles Bog encompasses a marsh surrounding a small fen, where a stand of tamaracks and white pines grows on a floating mat of peat moss. Starting near the guardhouse in the northeastern part of the site, a boardwalk trail passes marshes and ponds that host horned grebes, black-crowned night herons, buffleheads, and myriad other water birds. You can hike right out to the beach and back on 4.5 miles of interconnecting loop trails. Two trailheads serve the trail system, each with a portable toilet.

Site 16: Porter Beach Area

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 west of State Route 49. About 0.3 miles west of State Route 49, turn north on Waverly Road, then left on Roskin Road, and right on Wabash Avenue. Be sure to park in one of the public parking lots along Wabash to avoid parking fines.

Description: The Porter Beach area is a good place to watch raptor migration. In March and April, hawks, especially buteos, fly north over the Midwest, riding balmy southerly winds. These raptors avoid flying over large bodies of water, so when they reach Lake Michigan, they follow the shoreline, sometimes concentrated in groups of as many as 300 birds. The high dunes in this portion of the national lakeshore are great places to watch this migratory spectacle. Fall raptor migration is less spectacular, since the birds don't tend to mass together. One notable exception is the peregrine falcon, which you're most likely to observe in early October.

Lat: 41.6453 Long: -87.0846
N. Mineral Springs Road, Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 926-7561
<http://www.nps.gov/indu>



Lat: 41.6600 Long: -87.0693
3057 Wabash Avenue, Dune Acres, IN 46304
(219) 926-7561
<http://www.nps.gov/indu/>





Town of Burns Harbor

Incorporated in 1966 with the aid of a local steel mill, Burns Harbor has its roots in the region's manufacturing industries. A town in transition, Burns Harbor is working to build upon its vision of community vitality and sustainability. A recent 217-home development project, called the Village in Burns Harbor, became the first planned community in the country to receive the National Green Building Standard from the National Association of Home Builders. Its cheerful, affordable, eco-friendly homes utilize green-building technology and create a welcoming neighborhood feel. Full of old-time charm and modern-day efficiency, this development project exemplifies the kind of community feel that Burns Harbor residents value.

Site 17: Indiana Dunes State Park

Directions: Follow State Route 49 north of Interstate 94. State Route 49 north ends at the state park entrance.

Description: Indiana Dunes State Park encompasses 2,182 acres of beach, dunes, marshes, swamps, hardwood forests, and white pine groves and is surrounded by National Lakeshore lands. Even on the busiest summer days, if you head away from the public beach house, you'll quickly lose the crowds. Scan the open water for waterfowl, beachcomb, and hike some of the park's 16.5 miles of trails through diverse and wildlife-rich habitats. Watch for birds from the small bird observatory in the Nature Center. The park provides camping, picnicking, showers, snack bar, camp store, and a park naturalist. In summer, the park offers a small gift shop and swimming beach with lifeguards. Interpretive programs are held daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and on weekends the rest of the year.

Site 18: Hawthorne Park

Directions: Follow US Route 20 west of State Route 49. Turn south on Waverly Road. After crossing the bridge over the interstate, the entrance to the park will be on your right. If you continue on Waverly Road, then turn left on Wabash Avenue to Calumet Road, you'll find a variety of restaurants Chesterton.

Description: Hawthorne Park offers a peaceful, well-maintained place to stop, stretch, and enjoy a picnic. In the developed portion of the park, you'll find picnic shelters, sports fields, a playground, and a community center. The park borders a riparian woodland, through which the Little Calumet River meanders, providing a quiet spot for fishing and watching birds, including downy, hairy, and red-bellied woodpeckers, and many warblers during spring migration.

Lat: 41.6624 Long: -87.0633
1600 North 25 East Road, Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 926-1952
www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm

Lat: 41.6193 Long: -87.0695
500 Ackerman Drive, Porter, IN 46304
(219) 921-1687
www.townofporter.com/parks.htm



Town of Porter

The Town of Porter's appeal dates back centuries—some of the region's earliest non-native settlers made their homes here. During your stay, you can visit two of these historic residences, the Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm (Site 13), and step back in time to settlement days. Rich in history, ecological diversity, outdoor fun, and small-town charm, Porter offers a family-friendly atmosphere that draws visitors and residents alike.

Porter is home to the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, where you'll find the information you need to make the most of your Beyond the Beach visit. While you're here, explore the Lake Michigan shoreline at Porter Beach (Site 16), where you can swim, beachcomb, and birdwatch. Take time for a stroll through Hawthorne Park (Site 18). This scenic park is a magnet for families, with playgrounds, a gazebo, picnic shelters, fishing, and recreation fields.



Site 19: Westchester Township History Museum

Directions: Follow State Route 49 south of Interstate 94 for about 1.25 miles. Turn west (right) at Porter Avenue. Follow Porter Avenue about 1 mile to the entrance to the museum.

Description: Located in the elegantly restored 1885 Brown Mansion, the Westchester Township History Museum houses exhibits that trace the history of Westchester Township from the glacial era to the present, and also features works by local artists. During the summer, the museum hosts a free concert series on Fridays, as well as many other public programs. The museum store offers a great selection of books, posters, and maps related to the history of Westchester Township and the Indiana Dunes. Free tours of the 16-room, Queen Anne-style mansion are offered Wednesday-Sunday, 1–5 p.m. or by appointment. Groups of 10 or more should call the museum to schedule a tour.

Site 20: Chesterton Bandstand & Historic Business District

Directions: Follow State Route 49 south of Interstate 94 for about 1.25 miles. Turn west (right) at Porter Avenue. Follow Porter Avenue to Calumet Road and turn north (right). Follow Calumet Road four blocks to the business district.

Description: Don't miss the chance to explore the charming community of Chesterton. After a major fire in 1902, townspeople rebuilt the downtown in brick, and this attractive business district is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Every Saturday from late May to late October, the downtown hosts a European Market, with more than 80 vendors selling a fantastic array of handcrafted foods and goods. A quick walk from the downtown area is the Chesterton Arts Center on 4th Street, which showcases regional art and offers extensive art classes. The town park is home to one of the state's oldest bandstands, built in 1924.

Lat: 41.6070 Long: -87.0610
700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9715
www.wpt.lib.in.us/museum



Lat: 41.6111 Long: -87.0532
Calumet Road and Broadway
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 926-1641 www.chestertonin.org



This Dune's Alive

The dunes of this region are in the midst of an age-old dance between the disruptive forces of wind and water and the anchoring force of plant roots. Much of the time, plant roots lead the dance, and grasses are able to take root on the dunes, holding sand in place.

But some dunes face the prevailing winds at an angle that keeps their sand in near-constant motion, preventing plants from taking root. Known as wandering dunes, these dunes migrate slowly inland, covering whatever lies in their paths. Mount Baldy (Site 28) and Smoking Dune at West Beach (Site 5) are examples of living dunes. At Central Beach (Site 27), you'll find a forest that's been buried by wind-blown sand.

Sometimes powerful winter winds strip the vegetation from a stable dune and carve its windward side into a hard-packed cliff of sand—perfect habitat for kingfishers and bank swallows to excavate their nest burrows.



Site 23: Lake View

Picnic Area

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 49 for 3 miles. Turn north (left) at East State Park Road, travel to the end and turn right on Lake Front Drive. The public beach access areas are located along the next half mile of road. There are a few public parking lots along State Park Road and Lake Front Drive. Parking is very limited and lots frequently fill during warm weekends.

Description: While Lake View can be filled with beach-goers in summer, it's a good place to picnic and watch for birds in spring and fall. Ducks, loons, grebes, jaegers, and gulls regularly gather along the lakeshore during migratory seasons. The National Audubon Society has designated the area between the national lakeshore and Beverly Drive, which parallels Lake Front Drive, as an Important Bird Area. There are no lifeguards at Lake View, but it is the only area in the national lakeshore with picnic shelters overlooking the lake.

Site 24: Century of Progress Homes

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 49 for 3 miles. Turn north (left) at East State Park Road, travel to the end and turn right on Lake Front Drive. The Century of Progress Homes are located between Dunbar and Derby Avenues along Lake Front Drive. Park in the lot at Dunbar Avenue or Lake View and walk to the site. **The homes and grounds are not open to the public**, but once a year, public tours are offered.

Description: With the theme of a “Century of Progress,” these houses were built for the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair to demonstrate modern architectural design and new technologies such as central air conditioning and dishwashers. Real estate developer Robert Bartlett brought the houses to the dunes by barge in 1935. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the homes are now property of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and are leased to private individuals.

Lat: 41.6820 Long: -87.0065
Lake Front Drive, Beverly Shores, IN 46301
(219) 926-7561
<http://www.nps.gov/indu>



Lat: 41.6844 Long: -87.0006
241 West Lake Front Drive
Beverly Shores, IN 46301
(219) 926-7561, www.nps.gov/indu





Beverly Shores and Pines

Beverly Shores began in 1927 when Fredrick Bartlett bought 3,600 acres here to create a resort community. His brother, Robert, took over the project in 1933. As part of the development, he bought and moved five homes that had been built for Chicago's 1933-34 Century of Progress World's Fair—showcasing the latest home technologies—to Lake Front Drive. You can still see these homes today (Site 24). They are owned by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and are being restored in partnership with individuals, open only once a year for tours. Beverly Shores is a great spot for birding and beachcombing year-round. Be sure to stop by the Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery (Site 25) to learn more about this eclectic community.

Located inland from Beverly Shores, Pines is named for the pine barren habitat in which the town was built. This small community is home to the state's shortest highway, State Route 520, a four-lane road just 1,000 feet in length.

Site 25: Depot of Beverly Shores Museum & Art Gallery

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 49 for 4.5 miles. At the traffic light at Broadway, turn north (left). Cross the tracks and make the first right turn into the parking lot behind the depot.

Description: The Beverly Shores station was built in 1929 as part of the Chicago, South Shore & South Bend Railroad, an electric interurban rail line. Today, the renovated waiting room still serves train commuters. The South Shore Line is the nation's last electric interurban line and transports 3.4 million passengers annually by electric rail to sites between Chicago and South Bend, Indiana. The station agent's house has been converted into a museum and art gallery, open from April through October. The Depot Museum showcases the town's history and architecture, and the gallery features work of local artists. A gift shop offers art, postcards, posters, and books.

Site 26: Brincka-Cross House & Gardens

Directions: Follow US Route 20 east of State Route 49 for 5.2 miles. At the flashing light, turn south (right) on North 500 East Road. Follow for one-half mile. Before the school, turn west (right) on E. Furness Road and follow about 1 mile to entrance on right (just before the intersection with North 425 East Road).

Description: Beautiful Brincka-Cross Gardens opened to the public for the first time in 2010. William Brincka, professor at the Art Institute of Chicago, put his artistry to work when he designed the 3.9 acres of gardens on this 25-acre site. The gardens hold 40 varieties of magnolias and 40 varieties of crab apple trees. Some 400 kinds of hosta grace the hosta garden near a screened tea room. In springtime, 25 varieties of forsythia brighten the gardens, and thousands of daffodils light the nearby woods. Schedule visits in advance. Parking extremely limited.

Lat: 41.6736 Long: -86.9857
525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN 46301
(219) 874-8000
www.bevshrsthsoc.org/museum.html



Lat: 41.6585 Long: -86.9853
427 E. Furness Road, Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 465-3586
www.porterco.org/parks.html





Site 27: Central Avenue Beach Access

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 49 for about 7 miles. At Central Avenue turn north (left) and continue until you reach the parking lot for the beach.

Description: During the spring and summer, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's shoreline near Central Avenue is a great place to watch bank swallows flying to and from their nest burrows in the dunes. Spring and fall offer great shorebird and waterfowl viewing. Just past the gate on the entrance road, you'll see a buried forest, created when wind-blown sands inundated the trees. Nearby, you can access the northeast end of the Calumet Bike Trail. This 9.1-mile gravel trail passes flower-filled fields, marshes, and woodlands. Lifeguards are not provided at Central Avenue Beach access.

Site 28: Mount Baldy

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 12 east of State Route 49 for about 8.3 miles. At the county line, Route 12 makes 2 sweeping curves. After the second curve, watch for the entrance to the park immediately on your left.

Description: At roughly 125 feet tall, Mount Baldy is the largest "living" dune in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. As the dune moves, it buries everything in its path, including trees. Over the last several years, park officials at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore have noted that Mount Baldy has begun moving inland at an increased pace. The reason for the stepped-up movement seems to be a combination of too little dune grass on top of Mount Baldy and too many people climbing its southern slope. Please remain on the trail to help conserve vegetation. In addition to the trail to the summit of Mount Baldy, you'll find shore access and a picnic area in the woods behind the dunes here. No lifeguards.

Site 29: Heron Rookery Trail

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 20 east from Beverly Shores. Turn south (right) on County Line Road and follow for 4.4 miles to East 1275 North Road. Turn west (right) on 1275 and follow for 1 mile. Turn north (right) on North 600 East Road and watch for the trailhead on the left. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: For more than 60 years, herons nested here along Little Calumet River. Though the heron rookery is no longer active, the 1.6-mile trail is a good spot for viewing other bird species. The oak savanna habitat near the abandoned rookery is also home to Karner blue butterflies, federally listed as endangered. National Lakeshore resource managers conduct prescribed burns to maintain open savanna habitat. In springtime, the woods along the trail are carpeted with wildflowers, including trillium, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, and mayapple.

Lat: 41.7014 Long: -86.9504
Central Avenue, Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu



Lat: 41.7069 Long: -86.9301
US Route 12, Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu



Lat: 41.6269 Long: -86.9523
North 600 East Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 926-7561, www.nps.gov/indu



The Dunes Region Itineraries

While every Dunes Region site is worth visiting, if you're short on time, you'll only be able to visit a few. Below are recommendations for great sites to visit in a day...or two.

Spend a Day

- Start at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Site 1) for maps and birding, fishing, or biking companion guides. Be sure to pick up the *Indiana Dunes Activities Guide*. This guide will provide detailed information about restaurants and accommodations in the Dunes, Moraine, and Kankakee regions as you explore the Trail.
- Climb the highest sand dune in Indiana! Mt. Tom at Indiana Dunes State Park (Site 17) is located along State Park Trails 4 and 8 and towers 192 feet above Lake Michigan. Sledding and the cross-country ski trails at this park are great in the winter. In warmer months, you may be inclined to camp here and spend days exploring the entire park.
- Café and restaurant options are plentiful in the Duneland Communities of Chesterton, Porter, and Burns Harbor, as well as Beverly Shores.
- For an afternoon of history and culture, head toward Lake Front Drive in Beverly Shores: View the Century of Progress Homes (Site 24) from the street. After your driving tour of the Homes, stop in at the Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery (Site 25).
- The Lake View Picnic Area (Site 23) is a great place to watch the sunset (as well as spring and fall waterfowl for birding enthusiasts).

Or

- For more solitude, wander the miles of trail through marshes, oak savanna, and dunes at Cowles Bog (Site 15). You can birdwatch and see unique plant communities, or in the winter after a heavy lake effect snow, hit the trails for an invigorating cross-country ski!

Add a day and make it a weekend!

- Hang out for the evening and enjoy indoor or outdoor dining in one of the Duneland Communities or Beverly Shores. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.
- Stay overnight at a bed and breakfast or a nearby hotel located in the Duneland Communities (see Accommodations listing on pages 41 and 42).
- Tired after your first day or not up for hiking? You can watch the sunrise (or sunset) right from your car in the west lot at the Indiana Dunes State Park (Site 17).
- On your second day, head to West Beach (Site 5) and explore the nearly one-mile succession trail that will lead you from the beach, through blowouts with intermittent ponds, over dunes, and through the woods. Jack

Pines grow along the trail much further south of their range. A favorite of beach goers, West Beach has more to offer those who have the time to wander inland.

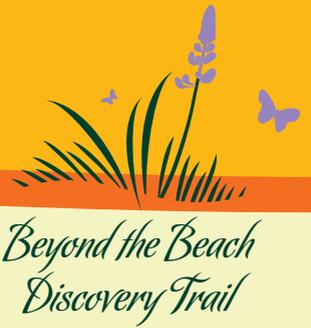
- Have lunch (or dinner) just a short drive away in Portage at nearby AmeriPlex. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.
- After lunch, check out Portage's newest park—Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (Site 7). Managed jointly by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the City of Portage, this area features an enclosed pavilion with restrooms, an accessible loop trail, and a fishing pier. The pavilion is not only beautiful, but is Gold LEED certified, built with exemplary, energy-efficient environmental design and materials. A new concrete cap and handrails on the breakwater provide easy access for fishing, birdwatching, and sightseeing.

Or

- Immerse yourself in local history at the Bailly-Chellberg Homesteads (Site 13). Explore on your own or arrange a guided tour, view spring wildflowers and the Mnoke prairie, hike, or birdwatch. You might also time your visit to coincide with two festivals held here—the Maple Sugar Time Festival (March) and Duneland Heritage Days (September).



The Moraine Region



Sculpted by Glaciers

While glaciers shaped the entire Beyond the Beach area, the Moraine Region showcases their phenomenal earth-moving power. Picture a bulldozer a mile high and as wide as your eyes can see. That was the power of the Wisconsin ice sheet as it pushed slowly south from Canada, reaching as far as central Indiana. The enormous glacier gathered immense amounts of debris—from sand to giant boulders—as it scraped over the land. As the climate warmed about 16,000 years ago, the glacier melted back to the north, dropping its debris as it retreated.

That debris formed the hills—what scientists call glacial moraines—of the Moraine Region. Glaciation shaped the sites you'll see as you explore this region—from Pinhook Bog, which formed from a glacial ice chunk left behind by the retreating glacier, to Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, perched atop the Valparaiso Moraine, with its 300 acres of woody plant collections, formal gardens, wetlands, woodlands, and restored prairies.

You can sample and take home flavors from the land at such Moraine Region sites as Anderson's Vineyard and Winery and Broken Wagon Bison Farm. The two communities within the Moraine region—Hebron and Valparaiso—invite you to discover quintessential Midwestern living, from the peaceful small-town feel of Hebron to the lively college-town atmosphere of Valparaiso. Whether you stop for a meal or stay for the weekend, you'll find all the amenities you need, plus a big welcome, here in the Moraine Region.

What makes a bog a bog?

Along the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail, you have the chance to see Indiana's only true bog—Pinhook Bog (Site 30). True bogs have mineral-poor and highly acidic water. An impermeable layer usually lines the bog's bottom, so that the bog only receives new water through precipitation and runoff. Very few plants can survive in these acidic waters, and many of these have amazing adaptations for surviving in this nutrient-poor environment. When you explore Pinhook Bog (by appointment only), watch for carnivorous plants like round-leafed sundew and pitcher plants.

Cowles Bog (Site 15) is actually a fen, since a break in its bottom clay layer allows groundwater to flow in. This fresh water decreases the fen's acidity and creates habitat for a somewhat different array of plants than you'll see at Pinhook Bog. Explore both and try to spot their similarities and differences.



Site 30: Pinhook Bog

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Directions: Follow US Route 20 east from Beverly Shores. Turn south (right) on US Route 421 and follow for about 3 miles to West 200 North Road. Turn east (left) on 200 and follow for 2.25 miles to Wozniak Road. Turn south (right) and watch for the trailhead on the left after about 1.2 miles.

Description: A visit to Pinhook Bog should be on every nature-lover's itinerary. Though part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the bog is located several miles inland, separate from the rest of the park. You can only visit the bog through a scheduled tour with a park service ranger, and it's an effort well worth making. Pinhook Bog is Indiana's only true bog. A floating boardwalk traverses the bog, and from it you'll see insect-eating plants, tamaracks, blueberry bushes, and sphagnum moss that tolerate the highly acidic bog water. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore offers regularly scheduled interpretive walks. Reservations are required.

Site 31: Zona Wildlife Sanctuary

Directions: Follow US Route 6 east from State Route 49 for 4.5 miles to North 550 East Road. Turn north (left) on 550 and follow 2 miles to East 950 North Road. Turn east (right) on 950 and watch for the trailhead on your left. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: Stretch your legs at this 92-acre woodland preserve. A short figure-eight trail of less than one mile creates a scenic route through the forest. The sanctuary is a great spot to see spring wildflowers, summer nesting birds, fall colors, and wildlife tracks in winter snow.

Lat: 41.6150 Long: -86.8484
227 N. Wozniak Road, La Porte, IN 46350
(219) 926-7561
www.nps.gov/indu



Lat: 41.5772 Long: -86.9473
East 950 North Road
Westville, IN 46391, (219) 465-3586
www.porterco.org/parks.html





Lupine and Karner Blues

As you explore the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail, watch for one of the region's small and rare gems, the Karner blue butterfly. Over the past century, Karner blue populations have declined by 99%. That's largely due to the decline of wild blue lupine, a plant that is essential to the Karner blue's survival.

Though adult Karner blues sip the nectar of a many kinds of flowers, their larvae (caterpillars) only eat lupine leaves. Lupine inhabits the dry, sandy soils of oak savannas and pine barrens. Land development and forest encroachment due to fire suppression have dramatically reduced these habitats. Managers at several sites within the Beyond the Beach Region, including the Inland Marsh Trail (Site 6), Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve (Site 22), Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area (Site 47), and West Beach (Site 5) use prescribed burns to maintain habitat for wild lupine and Karner blue butterflies.

Site 32: Anderson's Vineyard & Winery

Directions: Located along US Route 6, 3.5 miles east of State Route 49.

Description: Since 1927, the Anderson family has grown fruit in the Valparaiso area, and they established their estate winery in 1994. Anderson's winery specializes in light, fruity wines produced from fruit and grapes grown in the Midwest region. They offer a wide variety of wines, including Rhubarb Blush and Blueberry. Their gift shop sells locally made jams and jellies, local crafts, beer and wine making supplies, and fresh produce (in season). Groups of 20 or more visitors can schedule tours of the winery and vineyard. Free wine tastings are available throughout the year.

Site 33: Sunset Hill Farm County Park

Directions: Follow US Route 6 west of State Route 49 to Meridian Road (traffic light). Turn south (left) on Meridian Road and watch for the park entrance on your left.

Description: Sunset Hill Farm County Park is a lovely 235-acre park where you'll find a primitive campground, several miles of trails, picnic and play areas, demonstration crops, and an amphitheater. The park's hiking trails traverse both prairie and woodland, where you can see birds and other wildlife. A working dairy farm until 1978, the park still grows demonstration crops as part of its educational mission to cultivate respect and understanding for earth's natural resources. The park offers scheduled naturalist programs, wagon rides, and public events.

Lat: 41.5486 Long: -86.9785
430 East US Route 6, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 464-4936
www.andersonswinery.com



Lat: 41.5464 Long: -87.0638
775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 465-3586
www.porterco.org



Town of Valparaiso

If you're looking for a delicious meal as you explore the Beyond the Beach region, Valparaiso is hard to beat. Its many restaurants offer wide-ranging tastes and styles, from down-home mom-and-pop eateries to top-notch fine dining. Home to Valparaiso University, which attracts students from around the world, Valparaiso hums with vitality evident in its charming historic downtown, with its many boutiques, sidewalk cafes, farmer's market, outdoor summer concerts, and more.

Entertainment and the performing arts continue to be a vital part of the city's identity and character. Valparaiso's Memorial Opera House (Site 40) has continuously showcased regional and national talent since 1893, and the Chicago Street Theater has delighted audiences since 1955. Check their theater schedules during your visit and catch a performance if you can.



Site 34: Long Lake Public Access

Directions: Follow US Route 6 west of State Route 49 to Meridian Road (traffic light). Turn south (left) on Meridian Road and travel 2 miles to East County Road 600 North. Turn east (left) on 200 and travel for 0.7 miles to Cayuga Lane. Turn north (left) on Cayuga and follow 0.2 miles to the launch entrance on your right. No amenities and parking is very limited.

Description: While Long Lake is surrounded by private property, it is a perfect spot for angling or birding. This small public access area offers a concrete boat launch. Small motor boats are permitted, with a maximum speed of 10mph. This launch is tucked away, but provides access to the beautiful Chain of Lakes if you own a boat.

Site 35: Rogers- Lakewood Park

Directions: Follow US Route 6 west of State Route 49 to Meridian Road (traffic light). Turn south (left) on Meridian Road and travel 2.25 miles to the park entrance on your left.

Description: Nestled on 122 acres of rolling woodlands on Valparaiso's northwest side, this park offers picnic pavilions, a sledding hill, a disc golf course, and a skateboard park. The TeamWorks challenge course provides teambuilding exercises for corporations and other groups. Lakewood Link, a two-mile foot/bike trail, connects Rogers-Lakewood Park to Foundation Meadows. The rolling terrain and size of this park make it a great destination for the nature enthusiast. Two lakes offer fishing, boating (paddle and row boat rentals available) and wildlife viewing. The park has many mature trees, from park-like stands with mowed grass to natural oak forest.

Lat: 41.5246 Long: -87.0517
East 600 North Road
Valparaiso, IN 46383
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Lat: 41.5194 Long: -87.0656
5502 North Campbell Street
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 462-5144, www.valparaisoparks.org





Restoring Native Biodiversity

Endowed with a mosaic of habitats—open water, beaches, dunes, wetlands, creeks, prairies, savannas, and forests—the Beyond the Beach Region supports tremendously diverse plants and animals. While human activities have reduced and fragmented the region’s habitats, it’s still home to more than 1100 plant species, 43 species of mammals, 18 amphibians, 23 reptiles, 71 fish, 60 butterflies, and 369 species of birds, 113 of which nest throughout the region.

Many sites along the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail showcase efforts to restore native habitats. From Forest Park (Site 37), where park managers are restoring native woodlands, to Taltree Arboretum and Gardens (Site 44), which showcases prairie and wetland restoration, you’ll see the inspiring results of people working to revitalize the native landscape.

Site 36: Foundation Meadows

Directions: From downtown Valparaiso, follow State Route 130 west a few blocks to North Campbell Street (traffic light). Turn north (right) and travel about 2 miles to the park entrance on your right.

Description: Foundation Meadows showcases the efforts of the Valparaiso Department of Parks and Recreation to restore prairie and wetland ecosystems that existed on these 20 acres before it was converted to farming. A mowed path leads through a prairie meadow, where you’ll find beautiful wildflowers during the warm seasons and many grassland birds. Silver Lake adjoins the park, and this marshy pond is a good place to see waterfowl during migration. A two-mile trail, known as Lakewood Link, connects this park with Rogers-Lakewood Park. The park also offers nature-themed “Butterfly Meadows” children’s playground, a memorial garden, and restrooms.

Site 37: Forest Park

Directions: From downtown Valparaiso, follow State Route 130 west a few blocks to North Campbell Street (traffic light). Turn north (right) and travel about 0.8 miles to Harrison Boulevard and turn west (left). Travel past Ogden Gardens a short distance to the park entrance on your left.

Description: Though Forest Park is just ten acres in size, it’s a lovely spot for a stroll or a family picnic. Oak and hickory dominate the woodlands here. You can wander along trails through two acres of forest floor restoration, installed by the park department. Removing non-native plants from the understory and planting back the native wildflowers and shrubs has provided a place to enjoy a native habitat inside the city. You’ll also find two picnic pavilions, restrooms, and a playground here.

Lat: 41.4980 Long: -87.0638
3210 North Campbell Street
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 462-5144, www.valparaisoparks.org



Lat: 41.4787 Long: -87.0693
Harrison Boulevard, Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 462-5144
www.valparaisoparks.org





Foundation Meadows provides milkweed, nectar, and shelter to sustain monarchs as they migrate across country. It's an official Monarch Waystation certified by Monarch Watch.

Site 38: Ogden Gardens Park

Directions: From downtown Valparaiso, follow State Route 130 west a few blocks to North Campbell Street (traffic light). Turn north (right) and travel about 0.8 miles to Harrison Boulevard and turn west (left). A small parking area is located on the left side of the road.

Description: Ogden Gardens boasts ten acres of manicured flower gardens beautifully landscaped with annuals, perennials, roses, shrubs, and trees. A network of pathways traverse the garden, past streams, bridges, a pond, and a tea house. For a small fee, visitors can rent a wooden gazebo in the gardens that's well suited to weddings and other special gatherings. Hummingbirds and butterflies frequent the gardens in summer, and many songbirds are drawn here as well. Managed by the Valparaiso Department of Parks and Recreation, these formal gardens are well worth a visit.

Site 39: Porter County Museum

Directions: The museum is located at the corner of South Franklin Street and Indiana Avenue in downtown Valparaiso.

Description: Included in the National Register of Historic Places, the former Sheriff's Residence and Porter County Jail (Museum) are historic in their own right and home to a variety of historical treasures. Exhibits are displayed throughout the former residence and in jail cells. The Museum is open to the public Friday through Sunday from 1 - 4 pm. Tours can be scheduled by appointment - (219) 465-3595.

Lat: 41.4795 Long: -87.0669
Harrison Boulevard and North Campbell
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 462-5144, www.valparaisoparks.org



Lat: 41.4668 Long: -87.0594
153 South Franklin Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 465-3595, www.oldjailmuseum.org





Inspired by Lake & Land

Naturalist Edwin Way Teale's 1943 memoir, *Dune Boy*, recalls summers at his grandparent's home in nearby Tremont. Donald Culross Peattie refers to his duneland upbringing in many works, including *Road of a Naturalist* (1941). Poet Carl Sandburg spent much time on Lake Michigan, penning such works as "Lake Michigan Morning" from his experiences. Visual artists like Frank Dudley, Earl H. Reed, Sr., David Sander, and Neil Kienitz have captured the essence of this region in their paintings.

Today, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Chesterton Art Center host an Artist-in-Residence Program that draws writers and visual artists to the Dunes for brief art residencies. Be sure to stop at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Site 1) to see the latest Artist-in-Residence exhibit.

Site 40: Memorial Opera House

Directions: The Opera House is located 104 Indiana Avenue in downtown Valparaiso.

Description: On the National Register of Historic Places, the handsome Memorial Opera House was built in 1893 by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) as a memorial to the county's Civil War veterans. In continual use since then, the Opera House has hosted such notable performers as conductor John Phillip Sousa and the Marx Brothers. The most recent renovation of this historic building began in 1993 and was completed in the spring of 1998. The architects tried to make the renovation as historically accurate as possible, and added design elements that were common during the 1890s. Free guided tours are offered by appointment and are well worth the effort. Be sure to check their program schedule to see what productions are showing during your visit to the region.

Site 41: Chustak Public Fishing Area

Directions: Follow State Route 149 south of US Route 6 for 2 miles. Turn west (right) at West 600 North Road and watch for the entrance on your left. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: This 76-acre public fishing area offers access to Salt Creek, where you'll find excellent small-stream trout and salmon fishing as fish leave Lake Michigan and head upstream on seasonal spawning runs. For non-anglers, the site provides a narrow trail that follows Salt Creek's meanderings through a scenic riparian bottomland. Pick up *Indiana Dunes Tourism's fishing guide* for additional details about fishing throughout the region.

Lat: 41.4668 Long: -87.0594
104 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 548-9137, www.mohlive.com



Lat: 41.5217 Long: -87.1308
West 600 North Road
South Haven, IN 46385
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Living from the Land

The phenomenal natural abundance of the Beyond the Beach Region has long attracted people to this landscape. When French explorers and missionaries first explored this area in the late 1600s, members of the Potawatomi, Miami, and Ottawa tribes lived here, hunting deer, turkey, quail, ducks, geese, and more in immensely productive wetlands, prairies, and forests. They gathered wild rice and cranberries from the marshes and wild grapes, blueberries, strawberries and plums from the sand hills. In early spring, they tapped sugar maples to make syrup. One of the earliest non-native settlers in the region, Honore Gratiem Joseph Bailly de Messein, moved here in 1822 with his family and built a fur trading post and tavern. At Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm (Site 13), part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, you can step back into early settlement life.



Site 42: Salt Creek Public Fishing Area

Directions: Follow State Route 149 north of State Route 130 for 1 mile. Turn west (left) on West 500 North Road and travel 1 mile to the entrance on your left. The parking area is located across from McCool Rd. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: This 75-acre public fishing area provides access to Salt Creek, where you'll find excellent small-stream trout and salmon fishing as fish leave Lake Michigan and head upstream on seasonal spawning runs. Salt Creek has notable runs of Skamania steelhead, and is popular among fly anglers. For non-anglers, the site offers several narrow trails that follow Salt Creek's meanderings through a scenic riparian bottomland. Pick up *Indiana Dunes Tourism's fishing guide* for additional details about fishing throughout the region.

Site 43: Broken Wagon Bison Farm

Directions: Follow State Route 130 west of Valparaiso. About 2 miles west of State Route 149, watch for North 475 West Road. Turn south (left) on 475 and travel a short distance to West 450 North Road. Turn west (right) on 450 and travel about 0.8 miles to the Broken Wagon Bison Farm on your right.

Description: This family farm raises American bison—the iconic species of the American prairie. At the farm, visitors can see bison in the fields and buy a range of bison products, including roasts and steaks, sausage, and jerky. The farm offers the opportunity to buy food that is not only locally grown, but is truly of this landscape—native to the Midwest. Visitors can request a tour of the farm and see the bison.

Lat: 41.5071 Long: -87.1428
West 500 North Road
Valparaiso, IN 46383
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild



Lat: 41.5001 Long: -87.1751
563 West 450 North Road
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 759-3523





Site 44: Taltree Arboretum & Gardens

Directions: Follow US Route 30 west of Valparaiso. Turn south (left) at North 500 West Road (traffic light) and travel 1.5 miles to West 100 North Road. Turn east (left) and the entrance will be approximately 0.5 mile on your right.

Description: Situated atop the Valparaiso moraine, Taltree Arboretum offers 360 acres of woody plant collections, formal gardens, wetlands, woodlands, and prairies. Damien and Rita Gabis founded Taltree in 1997, and during the spring of 1998, Taltree staff and volunteers planted 35 acres of warm season prairie and more than 7000 oaks and hickories. Soon thereafter, a large wetland that had been drained for agriculture was restored. More than 80 bird species live at Taltree, including bobolinks, bluebirds, grasshopper sparrows, green herons, and migrating warblers. More than three miles of trails allow you to explore Taltree's diverse landscape.

Site 45: Jerry Allen Waterfowl Management Unit

Directions: From Hebron, follow State Route 2 east 1.5 miles to West 650 South Road and turn east (right). Follow 650 for 2.5 miles and turn north (left) at South 450 West Road. Once you make a sharp right turn, the marsh is on your left. Park at the sign in the grass and walk in. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: This 78-acre site, like so much of the Indiana Dunes region, was once wetland that was drained for farming. Since acquiring the property in 1993, Waterfowl USA, Northwest Indiana Chapter, has worked hard to restore wetlands habitat here, building two dikes, three islands, and a 3-acre goose pasture, which attract abundant and diverse waterfowl. They have also installed wood duck nest boxes, mallard hen houses, and goose platforms. The site is open to wildlife viewing but is closed during hunting season.

A cottonwood tree possesses unique adaptive skills: its branches when buried by moving sand can form roots and its roots when uncovered can form branches.

Lat: 41.4488 Long: -87.1528
450 West 100 North Road
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 462-0025, www.taltree.org



Lat: 41.3551 Long: -87.1509
West 550 South Road
Hebron, IN 46341, (219) 322-1545
www.nwiwusa.com/projects.html



Town of Hebron

Though located just 50 miles from Chicago, Hebron still offers a down-home, please-and-thank-you slice of the Midwest. Proud of its pioneer roots and farming heritage, Hebron's pioneer history began in 1835 when Judge Jessie Johnson, first judge of Porter County's Probate Court, settled here. In 1863, the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and St. Louis Railroad built a line through Hebron, linking it with the country's major cities. You can still visit the restored railway depot, which now serves as a railroad museum (Site 46). As you explore the town, watch for outdoor murals that depict scenes from the town's history and heritage. Several community parks offer open spaces for picnicking, festivals, concerts, and sports.



Site 46: Stage Coach Inn & Panhandle Depot

Directions: The two museums are located at 127 North Main Street in Hebron. Main Street is also known as State Route 2.

Description: Open from June through September, the Stage Coach Inn and Panhandle Depot are museums for the Hebron Historical Society. The Stage Coach Inn is a saltbox style house, built in 1849, that has variously served as an inn, residence, post office, and museum over the years. Several rooms within the Stage Coach Inn are furnished with period items and display important community artifacts. Built in 1868 by the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad, the Panhandle Depot closed in the 1960s, and the railroad discontinued rail service to Hebron in 1978. The rails have since been removed. The Hebron Historical Society bought the depot to preserve it from demolition and later moved it to its present location and restored it. The Panhandle Depot houses local railroad memorabilia and an exhibit on local military service.

The Stage Coach Inn is a saltbox style house, built in 1849, that has variously served as an inn, residence, post office, and museum over the years.

Lat: 41.3194 Long: -87.1997
127 North Main Street
Hebron, IN 46341
(219) 996-3192



The Moraine Region Itineraries

While every Moraine Region site is worth visiting, if you're short on time, you'll only be able to visit a few. Below are recommendations for great sites to see in a day...or two.

Spend a Day

- Start at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Site 1) for maps and birding, fishing, or biking companion guides. Be sure to pick up the *Indiana Dunes Activities Guide*. This guide will provide detailed information about restaurants and accommodations in the Dunes, Moraine, and Kankakee regions as you explore the Trail.
- Head to Taltree Arboretum and Gardens (Site 44) to explore formal gardens as well as restored native landscapes. Hike the trails and perhaps enjoy a summer concert or one of the many classes offered throughout the year on topics such as gardening, photography, or yoga.
- Have lunch nearby at one of downtown Valparaiso's many cafes and restaurants. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.
- Then visit Broken Wagon Bison Farm (Site 43) to see bison and buy a range of bison products. Bring your cooler!
- End your day at Ogden Gardens and Forest Park (Sites 37-38) where you can explore more formal gardens and restored oak forest, watch butterflies and hummingbirds, and perhaps picnic.

Or

- Nature enthusiasts will want to tour Pinhook Bog (Site 30), Indiana's only true bog and a unique geologic feature in the region. The bog contains a vast array of plants with various adaptations for survival and is a must-see for any nature-lover. Hours and tour size are limited. Contact the National Lakeshore or Visitor Center for additional information.

Add a day and make it a weekend!

- Stick around and, weather permitting, enjoy dinner at one of Valparaiso's many outdoor dining venues.
- Take in a show or concert at the Memorial Opera House (Site 40). The Opera House features hip bands, new musicals, and traditional productions in a classy, historic setting. Check their website to see what will be featured during your stay.
- Stay the night in a bed and breakfast or at one of the many nearby hotels in Valparaiso (see Accommodations listing on pages 41 and 42).
- On day two, explore the lakes at Rogers-Lakewood Park (Site 35). Enjoy swimming, fishing, picnicking, or the two-mile hiking/

biking trail. This park also has a disc golf course and paddle boat rentals. For the adventurous, navigate the lakes yourself! If you have your own small boat, you can launch nearby at Long Lake Public Access (site 34).

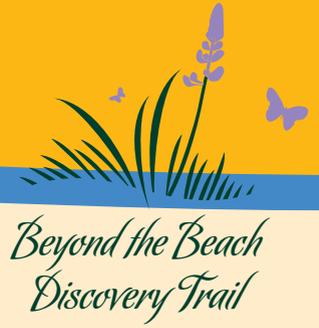
- Bring a picnic or have lunch in one of Valparaiso's many cafes and restaurants. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.
- If you are visiting in the spring, enjoy the drive to Zona Wildlife Sanctuary (Site 31) for an impressive array of spring wildflowers and a short hiking trail.

Or

- Sample local abundance at Anderson's Vineyard and Winery (Site 32), where you'll find wine tasting and sales, fresh produce in season, and local jams and jellies.

The Kankakee Region





Wide Open Spaces

*Beyond the Beach
Discovery Trail*

There never was anything quite like the old Kankakee marsh in northwestern Indiana. . . . The superabundance of its feathered game and fur and fish was next to unbelievable. –William Bridges, *New York Zoological Society*, Nov-Dec, 1935

As the Wisconsin Glacier melted 16,000 years ago, the moraines of the Valparaiso area north of the Kankakee Region acted as dams, trapping melting water and forming glacial Lake Chicago. Those meltwaters finally overtopped the moraines, unleashing the Kankakee Torrent, a huge flood that left enormous sand deposits here in the Kankakee Region. Black oak savannas and sand prairies flourished in this sandy soil. The Kankakee River meandered through these flatlands, flanked on either side by wetlands that spanned hundreds of thousands of acres. A scarcely imaginable abundance of wildlife lived in these marshes, prairies, and woodlands.

That landscape changed dramatically in the early 1900s as marshlands were drained and converted to agriculture, the Kankakee channelized, and the prairies plowed. At several sites within the Kankakee Region, you can see impressive remnants of this native landscape—from the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area, where tens of thousands of sandhill cranes gather during fall migration, to Kankakee Sands, where The Nature Conservancy has restored 5,000 acres of wetlands and prairie. Many of these sites offer few visitor amenities—often little more than a parking area. This lack of development makes these great places to see wildlife and immerse yourself in nature.

While dramatic natural sites dominate the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail here in the Kankakee Region, you'll also find cultural sites like Dunn's Bridge, believed to have been constructed of steel salvaged from the world's first Ferris Wheel exhibited in Chicago in 1893. As you explore the region, be sure to stop in the community of Kouts for a heaping serving of home cooking and Midwestern hospitality.



*Now jointly owned
by The Nature
Conservancy and the
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources,
Aukiki is part of
the Indiana Grand
Kankakee Marsh
Restoration Project.*

Site 47: Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area

Directions: Follow State Route 49 south of Kouts. Once you cross the Kankakee River watch for an Aukiki sign on the left and turn in to the gravel road. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: This 650-acre parcel, donated by NiSource, conserves wetlands, black oak barrens, and sand prairie, offering wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting. Now jointly owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Aukiki is part of the Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project. To restore the land, staff and volunteers have thinned the forest and reintroduced fire with prescribed burns to restore oak barrens and prairie habitat. DNR and Ducks Unlimited have partnered to restore wetland areas for waterfowl along the Kankakee River, and have converted 200 acres of former farm land to grasses to improve wildlife habitat. No amenities, but a great place to observe nature. Call (219) 843-4841 for information on hunting seasons and regulations.

Site 48: Dunn's Bridge County Park

Directions: From Kouts, follow State Route 8 east for 3 miles to South 500 East Road. Turn south (right) on 500 and travel 6.7 miles to the park entrance on your right. There is no sign, and if you cross the Kankakee River you have gone too far.

Description: Legend has it that this unusual bridge was built with steel salvaged from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. Local lore has it that the metal arches came from the world's first Ferris Wheel, which debuted at that exposition. Dunn's Bridge was renovated in 2003 and won a state award for the engineering work. Spanning the Kankakee River, the bridge is open to pedestrians. Three-acre Dunn's Bridge County Park offers the only boat access to the Kankakee River in Porter County. It's a great place to canoe, kayak, watch wildlife from the riverbank, or fish from a small motorboat.

Lat: 41.2307 Long: -87.0375
State Route 49, Wheatfield, IN 46392
(219) 285-2184, www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/indiana/work/art21799.html



Lat: 41.2215 Long: -86.9690
South 500 East Road, Kouts, IN
46347, (219) 465-3586
www.porterco.org





Town of Kouts

Like many small Midwestern farming communities, Kouts is a town where everyone knows everyone else and visitors don't remain strangers for long. As you enter the community of Kouts, you pass by rolling green and yellow fields sprinkled with barns and silos. A moment later, you're on Main Street, where you'll find family restaurants with friendly service and homestyle cooking, as well as several welcoming storefronts.

Take a break from your explorations of the Beyond the Beach region with a visit to Kouts. Whether you're dining on locally raised pork, visiting local homes at the annual Kouts Christmas Open House, or browsing wares at a community garage sale, you'll take home a sense of the friendliness and community spirit that surrounds you here in Kouts.

Site 49: Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area

Directions: From LaCrosse, follow State Route 8 east about 8 miles to State Route 39. Turn south (right), and follow 39 about 4 miles to Toto Road and turn west (right). Watch for the headquarters office on your right where you can obtain a map.

Description: Designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, 4,199-acre Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area is part of the Grand Kankakee Marsh region (see sidebar, page 39). A single-lane gravel road follows the levee along the south side of the Yellow River and offers excellent wildlife viewing into the bottomland swamps and Yellow River. Ten-Mile Road is gated and offers foot access to the swamp and forest between the Yellow and Kankakee rivers. Watch for bald eagles, which have nested here for many years. Two boat ramps access the Kankakee River. Limited amenities, but a great place to immerse yourself in nature. Call (219) 896-3522 for hunting information.

Site 50: Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area

Directions: From La Crosse, follow US Route 421 about 12.5 miles to State Route 143. Turn west (right) and travel about 1 mile to the wildlife area office to register and pick up maps.

Description: This gem of a wildlife area conserves 8,062 acres of wetland, upland, and woodland habitat, providing an ideal stopover for migratory birds. Beginning in August, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, ducks, and occasionally even federally endangered whooping cranes gather here. By mid-November—peak fall viewing time—daily crane counts swell to 15,000 or more. They congregate in early spring, but in less spectacular numbers. The Marsh Observation Trail (2 miles one way) follows a gated road into the Waterfowl Resting Area and ends at a viewing platform near open water. Visitors are required to check-in at the headquarters office. Limited amenities. Call (219) 843-4841 for hunting information.

Lat: 41.2592 Long: -86.7816
4320 West Toto Road, North Judson, IN 46366
(574) 896-3522
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3090.htm



Lat: 41.1394 Long: -86.9205
US Route 421, Medaryville, IN 47959
(219) 843-4841
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3091.htm





Without fire, there could be no prairie or oak savannas. Fire is a natural part of both forest and grassland ecology and kills invading brush and small trees. It also encourages the growth of grasses and forbs.

Site 51: Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

Directions: Follow State Route 2 east of Interstate 65 for 1.25 miles to Clay Street and turn south (right). Travel south for 5 miles to the west end of the park where maps and parking are located.

Description: This 2,069-acre park, located along the historic Kankakee River, floods seasonally, providing ideal wetland habitat for wildlife. Acquired by Lake County Parks in 1977 with assistance from The Nature Conservancy, Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park's densely wooded areas and remnants of old river channels are home to a large deer herd and many species of waterfowl. Hunting, fishing, wildlife and bird viewing, biking, and boating on the Kankakee River make up the bulk of recreation activities at this park. The levees are also used as bridle trails. For the past 19 years, the park has hosted the annual Voyageur Rendezvous, a colorful living history reenactment of the early French fur trade era.

Site 52: LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area

Directions: From Lake Village, follow State Route 10 west 1.5 miles to the entrance of the headquarters office where you can pick up a map.

Description: LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area conserves 3,797 acres of hardwood forests, cropland and fallow fields, marshes, brush, and open water. Bisected by the Kankakee River, LaSalle is an ideal stopover for migratory birds. State Line Road and the drive to Parking Area 3 offers excellent roadside wildlife viewing. The footpath that follows the levee along the south side of the Kankakee is a quiet place to explore and watch wildlife. Recreational activities here include hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The site offers boat ramps and a hunting dog training area. Limited amenities, but a great place to immerse yourself in nature. Call (219) 992-3019 for hunting information.

Lat: 41.2231 Long: -87.2757
21690 Range Line Road, Hebron, IN 46341
(219) 769-7275
www.lakecountyparks.com/grand.html



Lat: 41.1533 Long: -87.4826
4752 West 1050 North Road
Lake Village, IN 46349, (219) 992-3019
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3088.htm





The Grand Kankakee Marsh

Until the late 1800s, the Kankakee River meandered 240 miles to cover the 75-mile distance between South Bend and the Illinois state line. The river snaked through one of the country's largest freshwater wetlands—500,000 acres known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh. Hunters and trappers flocked to these wetlands, and between 1834 and 1884, trappers averaged 20,000–40,000 pelts—mostly muskrat—annually. Waterfowl visited the marsh in scarcely imaginable numbers, a renowned attraction for sportsmen.

While these wetlands were rich in wildlife, they offered little in the way of workable cropland. Settlers in the area pushed to convert the marshes to farm fields. By 1917, most of the marsh had been drained and the Kankakee River had been straightened, shortened by many miles, and deepened. At Kankakee Sands (Site 53) and neighboring Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area (Site 54), you can witness large-scale efforts to restore portions of the area's native wetlands and prairie.

Site 53: Kankakee Sands

Directions: From Lake Village, follow US Route 41 south about 6.5 miles to the Kankakee Sands Project Office, where you can pick up a site map. No amenities and parking is limited.

Description: Kankakee Sands conserves more than 7,000 acres of prairie, savanna, and wetlands—habitat for some of the fastest declining bird species in North America, including northern bobwhite, grasshopper sparrow, and American bittern. Kankakee Sands is also home to several bird species that are endangered or threatened in Indiana, like black tern, dickcissel, and sandhill crane. Other rare and threatened species include the plains pocket gopher, regal fritillary butterfly, blue racer snake, and prairie flame flower. The Nature Conservancy has restored some 5,000 acres of wetlands and prairie here, and established the Kankakee Sands Seed Nursery to provide native plants. Explore the Conrad Trail, which will lead you through the scenic ghost town of Conrad Station.

Site 54: Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area

Directions: From Lake Village, follow US Route 41 south. Watch for West 100 North Road about 9.2 miles south of Lake Village. Turn west (right) on 100 and follow 4 miles to State Line Road. Turn south (left) on State Line Road and travel about 2.6 miles to the entrance to the headquarters office, where you can obtain a map.

Description: Adjacent to Kankakee Sands, Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area maintains 9,956 acres of sandy hills, oak barrens, wetlands, ponds, and marshes. Much of this acreage is former farmland, and a railroad once ran through the property, evidenced by remnants of an old station. Fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing top the activities here. A recreation area with camping, picnicking, boat rentals, and boat launch is located near the headquarters office on 1,200-acre J. C. Murphey Lake. Call (219) 285-2704 for hunting information.

Lat: 41.0468 Long: -87.4496
3294 North US 41, Morocco, IN 47963
(219) 285-2184, www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana/work/art7790.html



Lat: 40.9728 Long: -87.5181
2042 South 500 West Road
Morocco, IN 47963
(219) 285-2704, www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3080.htm



The Kankakee Region Itineraries

While every Kankakee Region site is worth visiting, if you're short on time, you'll only be able to visit a few. Below are recommendations for great sites to see in a day...or two.

The river snaked through one of the country's largest freshwater wetlands—500,000 acres known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh.

Spend a Day

- Start at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Site 1) for maps and birding, fishing, or biking companion guides. Be sure to pick up the *Indiana Dunes Activities Guide*. This guide will provide detailed information about restaurants and accommodations in the Dunes, Moraine, and Kankakee regions as you explore the Trail.

- Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area (Site 50) is well known to hunters and anglers, but a trip to this site for nature enthusiasts who visit in November is well worth the drive. This designated Audubon Important Bird Area provides more than 8000 acres of ideal habitat for migratory birds. In November, sandhill cranes number in the tens of thousands — quite a spectacle! View this short film to learn more about the migration at www.in.gov/dnr/slides/cranes/index.html.

- Enjoy lunch or dinner in Kouts. Check the *Activities Guide* to find the perfect spot.

Or

- Move on to spend the afternoon paddling or motoring the Kankakee River. There's no livery at Dunn's Bridge County Park (site 48)—yet. But for those with small boats, canoes, or kayaks, Dunn's boasts a historic bridge and

a nice launch for small boats and plenty of parking right on the Kankakee.

Add a day and make it a weekend!

- Stick around and enjoy dinner in Hebron or at one of Valparaiso's many downtown dining venues. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.

- Stay the night in a bed and breakfast or at one of the many hotels in Valparaiso (see Accommodations listing on pages 41 and 42).

- The following day, explore the Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park (Site 51) for spring birdwatching, wildlife watching, boat launch, fishing, hunting, and hiking.

- Enjoy lunch in Hebron or head back to Valparaiso. Check the *Activities Guide* for details.

- Spend the afternoon fishing or strolling along the Kankakee and bayous at LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area (Site 52). Shoreline fishing is an option and three boat ramps are available. Your catch of the day may include small or largemouth bass, walleye, bluegill or rock bass. Parking area and Access Road 3 offer scenic roadside wildlife viewing!



Accommodations		Price Range	Rooms or Campsites	Indoor/Outdoor Pool (IN/OP)	Full/Continental Breakfast (FB/CB)	High speed Internet	Pet's Allowed	Non-Smoking	Accessibility
Beverly Shores									
Dunes Shore Inn, 1500 North	[219] 879-9029	\$\$\$	12		CB				
Dunewood Campground (Nat. Park Svc.) US Route 12 & Broadway	[219] 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu	\$	79				Y		Y
Chesterton									
At Home in the Woods, 898 North 350 East	[219] 728-1325, www.athomeinthewoodsebb.com	\$\$\$	3	OP	FB	Y		Y	
Best Western Indian Oak, 558 Indian Boundary Road	[219] 926-2200, www.bestwestern.com/indianoak	\$\$\$	62		CB	Y		Y	Y
Econo Lodge, 713 Plaza Drive	[219] 929-4416, www.choicehotels.com	\$\$\$	41			Y	Y		Y
Gray Goose Inn, 350 Indian Boundary Road	[219] 926-5781, www.graygooseinn.com	\$\$\$	8	OP	FB	Y		Y	
Hilton Garden Inn, 501 Gateway Boulevard	[219] 983-9500, www.hiltongardeninn.com	\$\$\$	120	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Indiana Dunes State Park Campground State Route 49 north of US Route 12	[866] 622-6746, www.camp.in.gov	\$	140				Y		Y
Sandcreek Campground, 1000 North 350 East	[219] 926-7482, www.sandcreekcampground.com	\$	150	OP			Y		Y
Super 8 Motel, 418 Council Drive	[219] 929-5549, www.super8.com	\$\$	49		CB	Y	Y	Y	Y
Waterbird Lakeside Inn, 556 Indian Boundary Road	[219] 928-1501, www.waterbirdinn.com	\$\$\$	22			Y		Y	Y
Kouts									
Donna Jo Campground, 1255 South 350 East	[219] 766-2186, www.donnajocampground.com	\$	75	OP		Y	Y		Y
Pines									
Al & Sally's Motel, 3221 West Dunes Highway	[219] 872-9131	\$\$	16	OP				Y	
Blackhawk Motel, 3651 West Dunes Highway	[219] 872-8656	\$\$	20	OP				Y	Y
Sands Inn Motel, 1630 Maple Street	[219] 872-0717	\$	20						Y
Portage									
Best Western Hotel & Suites, 6200 Melton Road [US Route 20]	[219] 734-6727, www.bestwestern.com	\$\$	100	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Castaway Motel, 5400 Melton Road [US Route 20]	[219] 762-4633	\$	8						
Comfort Inn, 2300 Willowcreek Road	[219] 763-7177, www.choicehotels.com	\$\$\$	52		CB	Y	Y		Y
Country Inn & Suites Portage, 1630 Olmstead Drive	[219] 764-0021, www.countryinns.com/portagein	\$\$\$	100	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Days Inn, 6161 Melton Road [US Route 20]	[219] 762-2136, www.daysinn.com	\$\$	119	IP		Y		Y	Y

Price Range: \$-Less than \$50, \$\$-\$50-100, \$\$\$-\$100+, Blue = Bed and Breakfast Inns, Green = Campgrounds, Orange = Hotel/Motel

Accommodations		Price Range	Rooms or Campsites	Indoor/Outdoor Pool (IN/OP)	Full/Continental Breakfast (FB/CB)	High speed Internet	Pet's Allowed	Non-Smoking	Accessibility
Deluxe Travel Inn & Suites 6101 Melton Road (US Route 20)	(219) 763-3121	\$\$	100	OP		Y	Y		Y
Dollar Inn 6140 Melton Road (US Route 20)	(219) 763-6601	\$	50				Y		Y
Don's Motel 5500 Melton Road (US Route 20)	(219) 762-3317	\$	25						
Hampton Inn 6353 Melton Road (US Route 20)	(219) 764-1919, www.hamptoninn.com	\$\$\$	60	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Holiday Inn Express 2323 Willowcreek Road	(219) 762-7777, www.hiexpress.com	\$\$\$	76	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Super 8 Motel 6118 Melton Road (US Route 20)	(219) 762-8857, www.super8.com	\$\$\$	66		CB	Y	Y	Y	Y
Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp Resort 5520 Old Porter Road	(800) 558-2954 #128, www.campjellystone-portage.com	\$	926	OP			Y		Y
Porter									
Comfort Inn & Suites 1800 West US Route 20	(219) 787-1400, www.comfortinn.com	\$\$\$	70	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Spring House Inn 303 North Mineral Springs Road	(219) 929-4600, www.springhouseinn.com	\$\$\$	50	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Valparaiso									
Country Inn & Suites Valparaiso 2020 LaPorte Avenue	(219) 476-0000, www.countryinns.com/valpoin	\$\$\$	59	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Courtyard by Marriott 2301 East Morthland Drive	(219) 465-1700, www.courtyard.com/vrpcy	\$\$\$	111	OP IP	FB	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fairfield Inn & Suites 2101 East Morthland Drive	(219) 465-6225, www.fairfieldinn.com/vrpfj	\$\$\$	63	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Hampton Inn & Suites 1451 Silhavy Road	(219) 531-6424, www.hamptoninn.com	\$\$\$	77	IP	FB	Y		Y	Y
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 1251 Silhavy Road	(219) 464-9395, www.hiexpress.com	\$\$\$	85	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y
Inn at Aberdeen 3158 South State Route 2	(219) 465-3753, www.innataberdeen.com	\$\$\$	11		FB	Y		Y	Y
Songbird Prairie 174 North 600 West	(219) 759-4274, www.songbirdprairie.com	\$\$\$	5		FB	Y		Y	Y
Star Express Inn 760 West Morthland Drive	(219) 464-8555, www.starexpressinn.com	\$\$\$	54		FB	Y	Y	Y	Y
Super 8 Motel 3005 John Howell Drive	(219) 464-9840, www.super8.com	\$\$\$	58	IP	CB	Y		Y	Y

Price Range: \$-Less than \$50, \$\$-\$50-100, \$\$\$-\$100+

Blue = Bed and Breakfast Inns, Green = Campgrounds, Orange = Hotel/Motel



Dunes Region

- 1 Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
- 2 Miller Woods (IDNL)
- 3 Marquette Park
- 4 Southern Lake Michigan Water Trail
- 5 West Beach Dune Succession Trail (IDNL)
- 6 Inland Marsh Trail (IDNL)
- 7 Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk (IDNL)
- 8 Woodland Park
- 9 Alton Goin Museum
- 10 Deer Trail Park
- 11 Imagination Glen Park
- 12 Little Calumet River Trail (IDNL)
- 13 Bailly Homestead & Chellberg Farm (IDNL)
- 14 Calumet Bike Trail
- 15 Cowles Bog (IDNL)
- 16 Porter Beach Area (IDNL)
- 17 Indiana Dunes State Park
- 18 Hawthorne Park
- 19 Westchester Township History Museum
- 20 Chesterton Bandstand & Historic District
- 21 Coffee Creek Park
- 22 Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve
- 23 Lake View Picnic Area (IDNL)
- 24 Century of Progress Homes (IDNL)
- 25 Depot of Beverly Shores
- 26 Brincka-Cross House & Gardens
- 27 Central Avenue Beach (IDNL)
- 28 Mount Baldy (IDNL)

- 29 Heron Rookery Trail (IDNL)

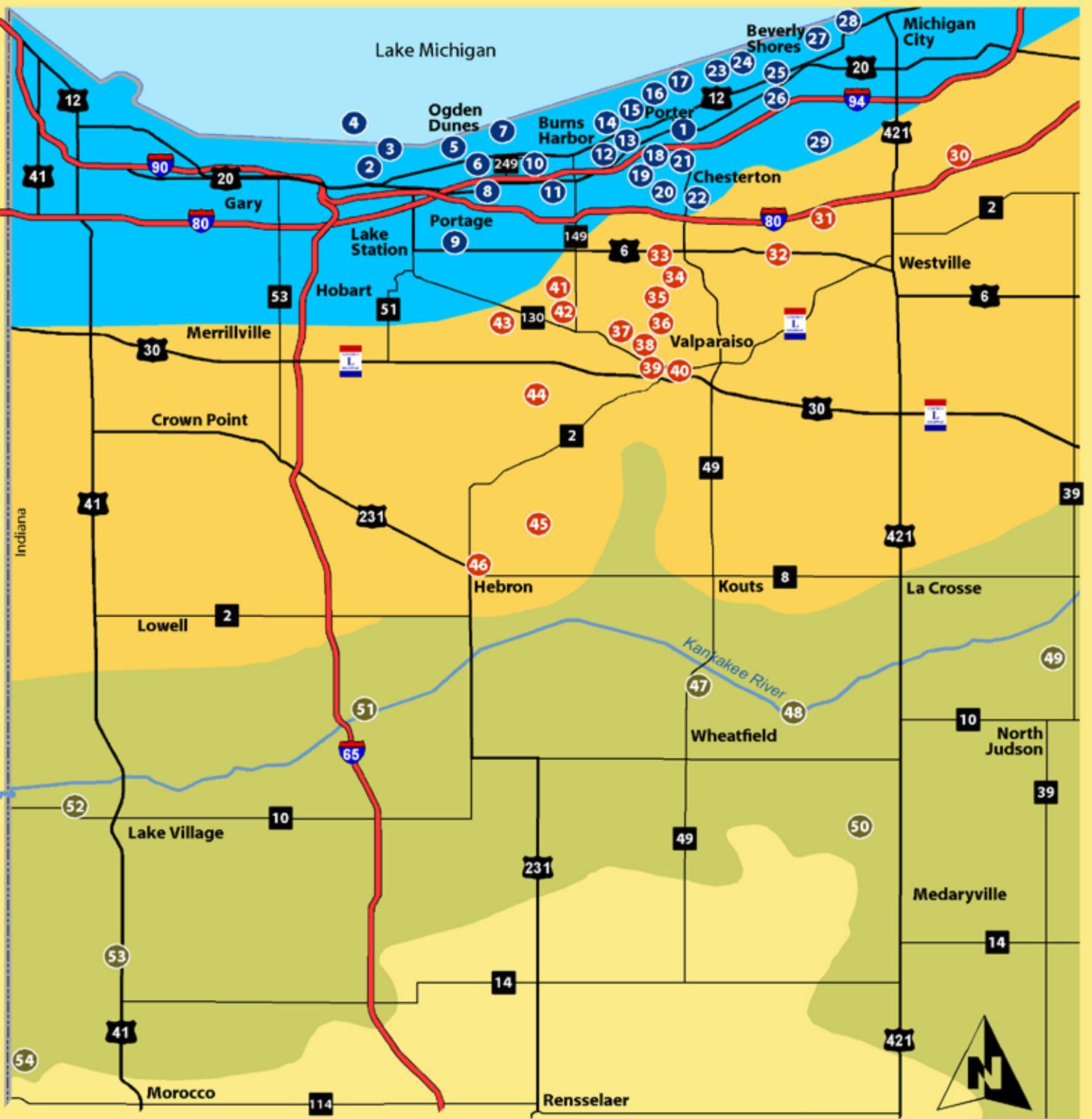
Moraine Region

- 30 Pinhook Bog (IDNL)
- 31 Zona Wildlife Sanctuary
- 32 Anderson's Vineyard & Winery
- 33 Sunset Hill Farm County Park
- 34 Long Lake Public Access
- 35 Rogers-Lakewood Park
- 36 Foundation Meadows
- 37 Forest Park
- 38 Ogden Gardens Park
- 39 Porter County Museum
- 40 Memorial Opera House
- 41 Chustak Public Fishing Area
- 42 Salt Creek Public Fishing Area
- 43 Broken Wagon Bison Farm
- 44 Taltree Arboretum & Gardens
- 45 Jerry Allen Waterfowl Management Unit
- 46 Stage Coach Inn & Panhandle Depot Museum

Kankakee Region

- 47 Aukiki Wetland Conservation Area
- 48 Dunn's Bridge County Park
- 49 Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area
- 50 Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area
- 51 Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park
- 52 LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area
- 53 Kankakee Sands
- 54 Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area

IDNL - Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore





*Beyond the Beach
Discovery Trail*

*The
Indiana
Dunes*
Nature's Masterpiece

To learn more about the adventures awaiting you along the *Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail*, visit www.BeyondTheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com. Visit www.BlogBeyondTheBeach.com for additional photos and latest news about the Trail.

Indiana Dunes Tourism
1215 State Road 49, Porter, Indiana 46304
1 (800) 283-8687
www.IndianaDunes.com