

POTATO CREEK STATE PARK

25601 State Road 4 | North Liberty, IN 46554 | 574-656-8186
3,840 Acres | Established 1969

TRAIL INFO		
TRAIL	MILES	TRAIL TYPE
Hike-1	2.2	Moderate
Hike-2	2.0	Rugged
Hike-3	1.0	Moderate
Hike-4	2.5	Moderate
Hike-5	1.0	Easy
Hike-6	0.5	Easy
Hike-B	0.5	Easy
Hike-CT	2.8	Easy
Hike-PL	0.9	Easy
Friends	0.75	Easy
Paved Bike	3.3	Moderate
Mnt. Bike	7.4	Easy
Horse-1	3.35	Bridle
Horse-2	1.5	Bridle
Horse-3	2.5	Bridle

SCALE & COMPASS

00.130.250.5

In Miles, 1:35,000

Sources: IDNR, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

North

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SHELTERS	
A	Quaking Aspen
B	Tulip Poplar Rec. Building
C	Whispering Winds West
D	Orchard Shores West
E	Orchard Shores East
F	Peppermint Hill Rec. Building

LEGEND			
	Property Boundary		Playground
	Private Property		Nature Center
	Water		Cemetery
	Nature Preserve		Camp Store
	Road		Picnic Area
	Hiking Trail		Dump Station
	Paved Bike Trail		Horse Campground
	Mnt. Bike Trail		Horse Day-Use Parking
	Horse Trail		Boat Launch
	Connector Trail		Fishing Pier
	Accessible		Boat Rental
	Gatehouse		Fish Cleaning Stn.
	Parking		Emergency Phone
	Picnic Shelter		Waterfill Station
	Campground		Vault Toilet
	Restroom		Dam
	Property Office		Spring House
	Beach		Cabins
	Beach House		Sledding Hill
	Future Inn Location		Scenic Viewpoint
	Point of Interest		Stairs

The map displays the layout of Potato Creek State Park, centered around Worster Lake. Key features include:

- Trails:** Various hiking trails (dashed lines) and bike trails (solid lines with icons) are shown, including the Friends Trail and Potato Creek.
- Camps:** Family Electric Campground, Family Cabins, Youth Tent Area, and Horsemen's Campground are marked with their respective shelter codes (A-F).
- Water Bodies:** Worster Lake, Spud Run, and Summer's Pond are labeled.
- Landmarks:** Vargo Hill, Steam Boat Hill, and the Swamp Rose Nature Preserve are indicated.
- Infrastructure:** Roads like Redwood Rd, New Rd, and Mayflower Rd are shown. The entrance is marked at the bottom center.
- Other Features:** A future site for a lodge, a cemetery, and various recreational facilities like picnic areas and playgrounds are also depicted.

THE PARK STORY

Potato Creek State Park’s geological origin spawned the diverse ecosystem that’s attracted people for thousands of years.

About 15,000 years ago, the Wisconsin ice sheet ceased its southward advance and began melting. Boulders and other debris broke free, leaving today’s landscape.

Potato Creek is a tributary of the Kankakee River and its bordering marsh, once one of the North America’s largest. It supported huge populations of waterfowl, fish, and a variety of aquatic plants.

This region was home to the Bodewadmi (Potawatomi) and other tribes who used the edible roots found along the creek and wetlands for food and medicine. The roots’ similarity to potatoes led to the creek’s name.

In the early 1800s, the rich Bodewadmi lands in northern Indiana were increasingly desired by the federal government. A series of treaties led to the tribe’s eventual forced removal.

By the 1830s, European settlers, many of them German immigrants arrived. They drained wetlands and straightened the creek bends to speed water removal and prevent flooding. Wet prairie became crops and pasture. Springhouses and mills dotted the area.

Darcey Worster and his conservation club first proposed a park with a man-made reservoir on Potato Creek in the late 1930s. World War II halted the project, but in 1969, the area was designated to become a park.

Today, the park is dedicated to restoring ecosystems to pre-European settlement conditions, incorporating Indigenous practices such as prescribed burns while managing invasive species, and restoring the creek’s original path.

Fish 327-acre Worster Lake, hike or bike the trails, visit the Nature Center, go birdwatching, or plan an overnight stay today.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Please obey all property rules & regulations.

[on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules](#)

ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

- Look for these icons on the map.

 **BICYCLING:** Paved and mountain bike trails available. Standard bicycle rental available, or visitors may bring their own bicycle. Helmets recommended on mountain bike trail.

 **BOATS RENTAL:** Boats, canoes, kayaks. Daily/ hourly rental. Accessible. Hours may vary.

 **BOAT LAUNCH:** Only private boats or sailboats may be launched. Electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two 12-volt batteries, or hand propulsion, allowed. Mooring area available for a nominal fee.

 **CAMPING:** Tent and trailer sites. Restrooms, hot water, showers, electricity, dump station and water-filling station. No hookups. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Accommodates six people. Make reservation at [camp.IN.gov](#).

 **CAMP STORE:** Open May through October. Hours vary—please call.

 **FAMILY CABINS:** Open year-round. Accommodates eight people. Two bedrooms, bath, kitchen with pots/pans, dining area and screened porch. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. No pets allowed. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](#).

 **FISHING:** Bass, bluegill, etc. State license required; 14-inch min. largemouth bass limit.

 **HORSEMAN’S CAMPGROUND:** Campers must have their own horse. All horses must have tags. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](#).

 **HORSE TRAILS:** Trails begin at Horsemen’s campground. Horses permitted only on bridle trails. No rentals available.

 **INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE:** Programs available. Schedules available at [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](#) or (574) 656-8186.

 **PICNIC AREAS:** Tables, grills, restrooms, playground, playfields, and shelters with electricity. Make reservations at [camp.IN.gov](#).

 **SWIMMING:** Free beach with accessible area. Beach and beach house open Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. Conditions may require beach closing before Labor Day.

 **WINTER ACTIVITIES:** Cross-country skiing, ice fishing, sledding/tubing. 8+ miles of trails when snow-covered. No rental equipment.

HIKING TRAILS

- For safety, please stay on marked trails.
- Bicycles prohibited on hiking trails.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 1	2.2 mi.	Moderate

Skirts Worster Lake, passing through old fields and maple and oak-hickory forest. Returns to Nature Center area.

Trail 2	2.0 mi.	Rugged
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Accessed either from Trail 1 or Trail 4. Winds through woods, up and down hills, to highest point in park.

Trail 3	1.0 mi.	Moderate
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Travels along ridge overlooking Worster Lake, passing through beech-maple forest and down to lake observation deck.

Trail 4	2.5 mi.	Moderate
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Scenic path along stream through beech-maple woods, past the lake and old farm sites.

Trail 5	1.0 mi.	Easy
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Rolling trail cuts through old fields. Has small wetland observation deck.

Trail 6	0.5 mi.	Moderate
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Short loop passes wetland and woods.

Friends Wetland Trail	0.75 mi.	Easy
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Passes three wetland observation decks.

Peppermint Loop Trail	0.9 mi.	Easy
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Starts at Nature Center following Trail 1 on old Peppermint Road along the lake. Cuts through a young woods and rejoins the end of Trail 1.

Memories made naturally.

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Each state park offers you the opportunity to complete tasks to earn a patch or property pin.

 [on.IN.gov/hoosierquest](#)

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 1-877-lodges1 (1-877-563-4371)

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  Please carry out all trash you produce to help keep the property clean and beautiful for all to enjoy!

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BIKING TRAILS

- For safety, please stay on marked trails.

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Paved Bicycle Trail	3.3 mi.	Moderate

Trail starts at boat rental and ends near Tulip Poplar shelter. It winds up and down wooded hills, above the creek bed, and then onto flat land passing wetlands and through forests.

Mountain Bike Trail	7.5 mi.	Easy
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Developed through a partnership between the Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association and Potato Creek State Park. For increased safety, bikers should ride in the direction indicated and hikers should walk in the opposite direction. Helmets recommended.

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- Find more DNR properties at [on.IN.gov/recfinder](#).

KINGSBURY FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

archery, boat ramps, dog training areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching

CHAMBERLAIN LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

bird observation platform, hiking trail

TRUE TALES

- **LOCAL RESIDENTS:** Many members of the Bodewadmi (Potawatomi) tribe reside in northern Indiana and southern Michigan where they continue to live in community.

- **CREATURE FEATURE:** Because of its rich variety of natural habitats, Potato Creek is listed on the Indiana Birding Trail. The park has had nesting pairs of osprey since before the species’ reintroduction in the early 2000s.

- **CREEK BAPTISMS:** During the late 1800s and early 1900s, some churches near Potato Creek held regular baptisms in the creek.



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Mail: P.O. Box 908
North Liberty, IN 46554

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 [on.IN.gov/potatocreeksp](#)

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