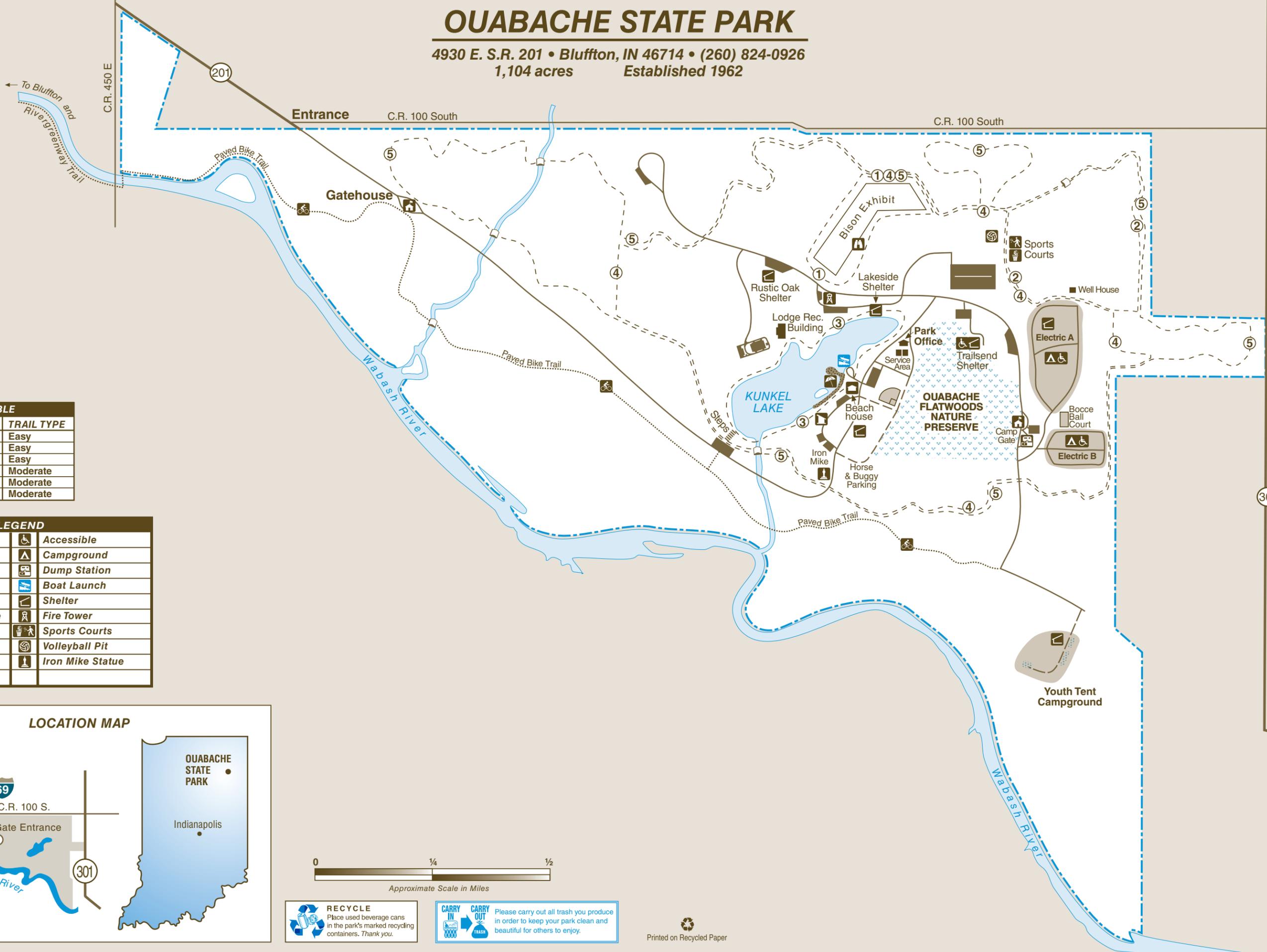


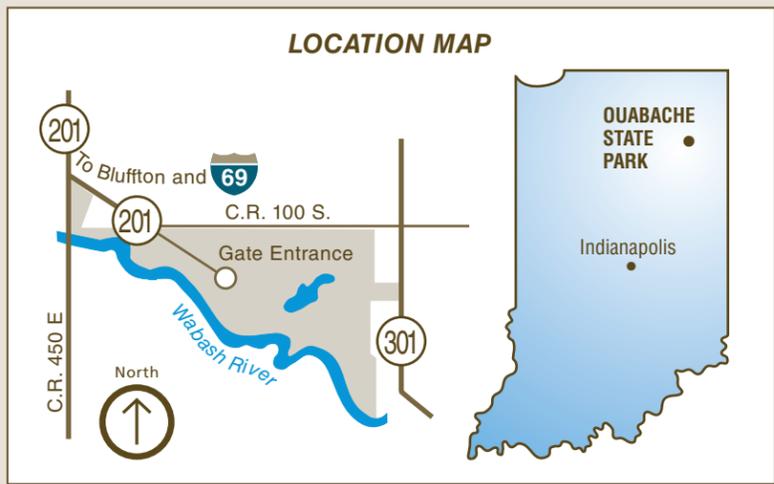
OUABACHE STATE PARK

4930 E. S.R. 201 • Bluffton, IN 46714 • (260) 824-0926
1,104 acres Established 1962



TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	1	Easy
2	1.25	Easy
3	1.08	Easy
4	4.07	Moderate
5	6	Moderate
Bike Trail	2.68	Moderate

LEGEND			
	Boundary		Accessible
	Road		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Dump Station
	Gravel Road		Boat Launch
	Bike Trail		Shelter
	Nature Preserve		Fire Tower
	Foot Bridge		Sports Courts
	Gatehouse		Volleyball Pit
	Beach		Iron Mike Statue
	Vault Toilet		



RECYCLE
Place used beverage cans in the park's marked recycling containers. Thank you.

CARRY IN CARRY OUT
Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

Batzell-Lenhard Woods Nature Preserve—3/4 mile hiking trail and parking

J. Edward Roush Fish and Wildlife Area—Boating, boat ramp, fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife watching, shooting range

Limberlost State Historic Site—The Limberlost marsh was the perfect laboratory for author Gene Stratton-Porter to study nature. At a time when most women were homemakers, Stratton-Porter created a lasting legacy of northern Indiana's vanishing natural history through her writings and photos

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

The "Ouabache Trail" begins at the bison exhibit and circles the entire property, using portions of all trails. Trail 5 may be started and finished at any trail entrance. The trail will take you through virtually all types of trees and terrain available in the area. Several interesting footbridges dot the trail.

Trail 5 6 miles Moderate

Allows access to campground and northern section of bison exhibit. Accessible from levee. Runs throughout interior of property, traveling through pines and hawthornes.

Trail 4 3 miles Moderate

Accessible from boat launch. Circles entire lake passing by playgrounds, firetower field and lakewood shelter.

Trail 3 1.5 miles Easy

Begins at north end of campground. Winds north through pine plantation, then south along volleyball court and back east to campground.

Trail 2 1.5 miles Easy

Circles bison exhibit, starting at exhibit parking lot.

Trail 1 1 miles Easy

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BEACH—Free access beach open the Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day.

BISON EXHIBIT—A 20-acre exhibit consisting of American bison in a natural setting.

BOATS, CANOES, KAYAKS, PADDLEBOATS, BICYCLES—Day or hour rental. Lifejackets available.

BOAT RAMP—Accessible on the east side of the lake, north of the beach. A lake permit is required to launch private boats. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than 12-volt batteries, are allowed.

CAMPING—Electric and primitive youth tent sites for approved groups only. Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Most sites will accommodate trailers. No full hookups, but waterfill station and dump station available. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FIRE TOWER—A 100-foot tower offers scenic views of the entire area. An adult must accompany children climbing the fire tower. (Closed for repairs.)

FISHING—Bass (restricted size), bluegill, etc. State license required. Contact park office for license purchases.

HIKING—Miles of moderate trails—no bicycle or vehicles of any kind permitted on hiking trails.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal naturalist on staff. Program schedules at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov.

IRON MIKE—The men of CCC Company 1592 lived and worked at the Wells County Game Farm from 1935–40. The game farm became an Indiana State Park in 1962.

LODGE RECREATION BUILDING—Rustic building with fireplace, kitchen facilities and parking. Reservations up to one year in advance available through the Central Reservation System. Contact park office for details.

PAVED BIKE TRAIL—2¼ miles, asphalt trail connects east end of park south of campground to bridge at 450 East and Bluffton's Rivergreenway Trail.

SHELTERS—Two modern picnic shelters, one open shelter, many tables, and charcoal grills. Playground equipment throughout the park and softball field with backstop. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

SPORT FACILITIES—Tennis/Basketball courts, both of these are equipped with lights. Sand volleyball, baseball field, playfield, bocce ball court. All are available first-come, first-served.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles and horseback riding are prohibited.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Water is tested regularly for purity.
- Hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This drinking water should be taken only from pumps, designated by the DNR.
- Swimming is limited to Olympic-size pool during times only in designated areas.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Groups are permitted in the family campground. No youth camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free. Call: **1-866-6campIN** (1-866-622-6746) Online: **camp.IN.gov**

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone. Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371) Online: **IndianalInns.com**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Ouabache State Park
4930 E. S.R. 201
Bluffton, IN 46714
Call: (260) 824-092
Fax: (260) 824-9402
Online: stateparks.IN.gov/2975.htm

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.

CARRY IN CARRY OUT Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

@INDnrstateparks andreservoirs **@indianadnr** **@INDNRstateparks**

See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at stateparks.IN.gov.

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit OutdoorIndiana.org or call (317) 233-3046.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

The Wabash River winds along the southern edge of the park, while County Road 100 South is the northern boundary. Many types of wildlife such as deer, fox and squirrels are frequent companions along park roads and throughout the property. Motorists should watch for park visitors and wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits and drive cautiously.

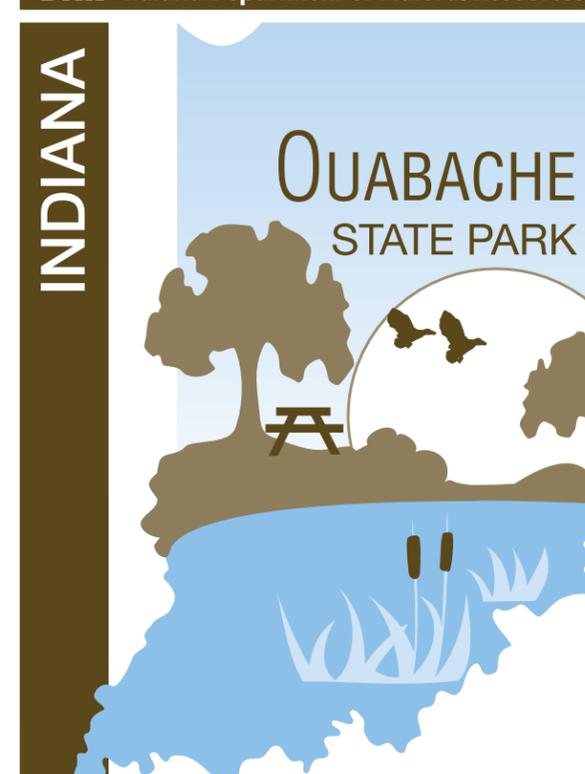
An asphalt bike trail, accessible at the entrance just north of the fire tower. Features include a modern campground, Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, seasonal naturalist service, picnic areas, playfields, and boating and fishing on 25-acre Kunkel Lake. An exhibit featuring American bison, commonly known as buffalo, is located approximately 3 miles long. Motorized vehicles of any kind are prohibited on the trail.

In 1983, the State Recreation Area became a state park. By the early 1960s the game-raising program was phased out. In 1962 the park was designated Ouabache State Recreation Area, administered by the Division of State Parks. These days, other than the presence of some of the original buildings, the park's appearance scarcely resembles that of its early existence.

At one time the park was widely acclaimed as the "Greatest Wildlife Laboratory in the United States" for its raising of pheasants, quail, raccoons and rabbits. One can still see remnants of their old pens along some of the trails.

developing a game preserve.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources



This area of Wells County was once occupied by the Miami, whose villages flanked the banks of the river that bears the name Wabash. Ouabache is difficult to spell but easy to pronounce, O-ba-chee.

In 1829, the first settler built a cabin along the river, near the eventual state park site. After the Native Americans were removed to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma during the 1830s and '40s, the area was rapidly settled and cleared for farming.

Ouabache was first acquired and operated as the Wells County State Forest and Game Preserve in the early 1930s. By that time the area had been cleared of most of its mature timber stands and, as a result, was severely eroded. The area gradually returned to a more natural state through the efforts of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) programs of reforestation and land management. Their major activities included constructing the various buildings and shelters of native stone and timber, planting for a nursery and

stateparks.IN.gov

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