

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Great-horned Owl



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Becky Hughes

Samantha Hayes

February Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Tuesday-Sunday, Closed Mondays

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you. To be added to our email list, send an email to dunesnc@dnr.in.gov

Saturday February 4

10am Winter Beach Walk! Meet the park interpreter at the beach pavilion for a short stroll along Lake Michigan's arctic shoreline. We'll explore dune formation, ice shelf building, and keep an eye out for animal tracks and other winter secrets. Dress for the cold and wind! BH

2pm CSI: Owls! Swoop into the Nature Center for an opportunity to investigate the remains of an owl's meal. A short talk will introduce you to our local owls, then we'll do a hands-on investigation of an owl's meal. Great program for the family! BH

5:30pm Saturday Night Ski-in! Enjoy the dunes under a bright moon tonight! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for an evening skiing the forested dune and swale. Bring your skis (or snowshoes!) In case of inclement weather, we'll still offer a moonlit night hike. SH



Sunday February 5

10am A Big Bowl Hike. Bring your favorite team's colors and join the Naturalist for a refreshing afternoon jaunt into the super interdunal "bowls" of the high dunes. We'll visit great views from Mt. Tom along the way. Put on that jersey and join us outside the Nature Center. SH

2pm Winter Nature Crafts. Join the Naturalist at the Nature Center this afternoon for a special make-it, take-it craft. BH

Saturday February 11

10am Dunes Trivia Hike. How wide is Lake Michigan? What does "Tremont" mean? Learn the answers to these and other questions as we play a guessing game on our hike this afternoon. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute walk. BH

2pm Just a Few Furs. Investigate the local furballs that live in the dunes! We'll explore how our mammals survive in the cold winter. Good chance to see and feel many of our local inhabitants pelts. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. BH

Sunday February 12

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist at the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with juncos, cardinals, and more! BH



2pm "I Love the Dunes" Hike. To celebrate Valentine's Day coming up, join us for this hike through the dunes. Countless people have loved the Indiana Dunes through time. In fact, it is this love that has protected these special areas. We'll remember some of the things that folks have appreciated, and how their love helped create the park. Meet at the Nature Center. BH

Saturday February 18

2pm Tracks in the Snow! Did you know that tracks can tell a story? Let's go for a hike and see what tales or tails we can learn about. Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center auditorium to start. BH

2pm Succession Stroll. Check out the dune formation process that occurs in the fall and winter with this great hike on Trail 3. Meet at the main beach Pavilion for this one hour trek. Join us! BH

Sunday February 19

10am Fresh Air Jaunt! Welcome the new day with a fresh air, morning jaunt this fine day! Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll through the dunes forests and swamps. We'll be exploring the morning life that's out and about this late winter morning. Grab the family and join us! BH

2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Come on out!

Saturday February 25

9am-4pm Project Flying WILD. Join us for this special all day workshop at the Nature Center. Flying WILD focuses on migratory birds and is designed to inspire young people to discover more about the natural world. Cost of the workshop is \$20, and registration is required by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

10am Spring Skunk Search! No, not real skunks, but the first wildflower of the year.... Skunk cabbage! We'll meet at the Nature Center and stroll into the dune wetlands for a peak at this stinky flower. Bring your olfactory senses and join us! BB



Sunday February 26

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Explore the science of bird banding this morning at the Nature Center. We'll throw up the banding nets and look at everything we learn by investigating these birds up close and in the hand. BB

2pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC. Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. BB

Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Park Interpreters have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390

Find these programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at
1-866-622-6746 or
on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

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