

## PURPOSE AND PROJECT HISTORY

Patoka Lake provides flood control, water supply, and general recreation and fish-and-wildlife opportunities. The lake forms an integral unit of the Ohio River Basin comprehensive plan and reduces flood stages downstream from the dam. Patoka was developed in accordance with a long-range program and provides for a beneficial use of reservoir lands, fish-andwildlife resources, and an opportunity for outdoor activities on a large body of water

Patoka Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of Oct. 27, 1965. Construction began in July 1972, with the dam completed in January 1979, and initial recreational facilities completed in December 1980.

### **TOTEM ROCK GEOLOGY**

As you leave the Nature Center on the main trail, you will walk over a ridge of sandstone that some say was laid down 325 million years ago by a huge river from the northeast that dumped its load of sand and silt into a shallow tropical sea. (You drove between outcroppings of this Wickliffe Formation as you approached the Nature Center.) As the trail begins to traverse along a more northerly ridge system, the Wickliffe Formation abruptly ends, and a younger sandstone, the Mansfield, takes over. This Pennsylvanian-aged sandstone was laid down by a river back when dragonflies with nearly 3-foot wingspans and salamanders 15 feet long inhabited the lush fern forests of the time. The best exposure of Mansfield sandstone along our trail system is Totem Rock, which exhibits the pocked honeycomb weathering typical of most sandstones. It also displays broad cross-bedding, which appears as intersecting "wood grain" patterns in the stones. Iron and manganese stain the rock red and brown, while a white crust of calcium sulfate (gypsum), potassium nitrate (saltpeter) and possibly epsom salts occurs on the rock face.

#### **DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY**

For a full list/map of all DNR properties visit on.IN.gov/recguide or on.IN.gov/recfinder.

#### **Ferdinand State Forest**

boating, boating ramps, boat rental, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, group camp, mountain biking, play/ sports area, picnic area, shelter house, swimming beach, trapping

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- No person shall conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir property administered by the Division of State Parks without a proper license.
- · No person shall launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or another floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the DNR for those purposes. No person shall leave a watercraft unattended in a courtesy dock.
- · Any firearm, including a handgun, BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, or paint gun must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one-day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign-in station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- A person who possesses a pet must attend the animal at all times and keep it caged or on a leash no more than 6 feet long.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the DNR is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- 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
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, 30 mph maximum and park only in designated areas.
- No person shall possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach.
- · Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the property office.
- · Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, visit the property office or go online at:

# on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules

## **DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS**

Because of size limitation, locations are marked but actual trails are not shown on this map. Trails listed above are in the Newton-Stewart SRA. Trail brochures are available at the Nature Center.

**TRAIL & DESCRIPTION** DISTANCE DIFFICULTY Trail 1 1.4 mi. Moderate

This loop trail starts at the trailhead on the west side of the Nature Center parking log. The trail starts by going down in elevation into one of Patoka Lake's many hillside drainages. The trail then goes up in elevation to overlook a cove before heading east on tope of a ridge line back to the parking area.

Trail 2 3.2 mi. Moderate

This loop trail starts at the trailhead on the westside of the Nature Center parking lot. The trail rises and falls elevation multiple times, showcasing the Souther Indiana's classic hilly terrain. Numerous rock outcroppings can be seen throughout this trail, including Totem Rock is found 1-mile into the trail.

3.2 mi. Moderate

This loop trail starts at the northern edge of the Nature Center parking lot, next to the Moery Cabin Site. The trail initially follows an old roadway lying on a ridgetop in a general western/northwestern direction before falling in elevation and sweeping back south/southeast following the edge of the 1,200-acre peninsula back to the parking area.

Trail 4

This short loop trail is a moderate trek with Wickliffe sandstone outcroppings along the uphill portions. Walk through the rock outcroppings and creek beds along the trail that takes an average of 30 to 45 minutes to hike.

0.6 mi.

Easy

Trail 5 0.2 mi. Easy

Commonly referred to as "The Narrows," this trail is a brief 1/4-mile historic wagon road. The wagon trail, abandoned in the 1800s, shows signatures in the sandstone rocks that give forth its name. Some signatures date as far back as 1864.

## PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

INTERPRETER-CONDUCTED WALKS—Join us for scheduled walks and hikes that may last 30 minutes or three hours. These walks are an enjoyable way to see the Reservoir, learn about nature and history, and meet other people.

# **ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

**BEACH**—Swimming is available during open hours Memorial Day through Labor Day. A modern bathhouse provides showers, dressing facilities, restrooms, and concessions.

**BOAT RAMPS**—Ten launch ramps located around the lake. Two major ramps are located within Newton-Stewart SRA.

**CAMPING**—Electric sites with asphalt pads, water, flush toilets, hot water, showers, a camp store, fish-cleaning station and trailer dump station. There is a fisherman campground designed primarily to serve anglers and primitive campers. Pit toilets and water available. Youth Tent camping and Primitive camping is also available. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING—Stocked with bass, bluegill, catfish, redear, crappie and walleye. A state fishing license is required and available at the office.

**HUNTING**—Woodland game and waterfowl are available during open seasons. Deer and squirrel are abundant. All hunters are required to register at a hunter check-in station.

Bonus County Antlerless Permits: contact property office for current quotas.

Safety Zones: Campground safety zones are open to furbearer hunting Jan. 1 until Feb. 28.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Explore the world of natural resources and Patoka heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.

MARINA — Two marinas available — Patoka Lake Marina in the Newton-Stewart SRA, and Hoosier Hills Marina in the Lick Fork SRA. Marinas are operated by concessionaires for the State to provide fuel, rentals and a full range of amenities.



PICNIC AREAS—tables, grills, toilet facilities and shelter. Accessible sites available.



SHELTERS—Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

**NATURE CENTER**—Located in the Newton-Stewart SRA. Open year-round for programs and special events. Contains nature and heritage displays related to the property, seating for presentations and a bird observation room. Backyard wildlife habitat gardens and a raptor viewing area offer an outdoor experience for a leisurely stroll as well as a variety of programs.

> For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov

# **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: **1-866-6camplN** (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: Indianalnns.com

# FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Patoka Lake 3084 North Dillard Rd Birdseye, IN 47513 Call: 812-338-5589 Online: on.IN.gov/patokalake

**DNR Law Enforcement Dispatch** (24 hour) 812-837-9536



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



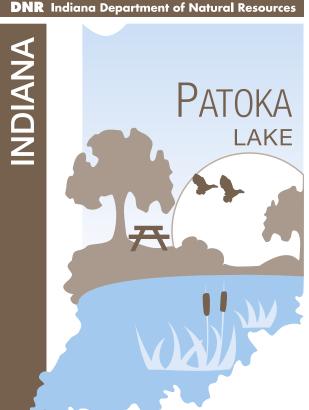




See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at stateparks.IN.gov.

OUTDOOR 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 urces, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Patoka Lake, the second-largest reservoir in the state, is located in Dubois, Crawford and Orange counties in southern Indiana on the Patoka River. Patoka Lake is accessible from State Road 164 along the southern edge of the property, State Road 145 running north and south along the eastern edge of the lake, or State Road 56, on the northern edge of the lake.

The purchase area of the Hoosier National Forest is located adjacent to Patoka Lake. The surrounding area of the lake consists of rolling topography, heavily wooded sections and deep draws and has retained a rustic and rural appearance. During their annual migration, bison created well-worn paths through the dense forests that served as the first roads of early settlers. A famous resort hotel located in French Lick established in the 1800s gained international recognition as a health resort primarily due to the mineral springs in the area.

Numerous caves lie to the east of Patoka Lake. The scenic rock outcroppings, acres of timberland, and rich history of this area are excellent for sightseeing and recreation.

on.IN.gov/stateparks