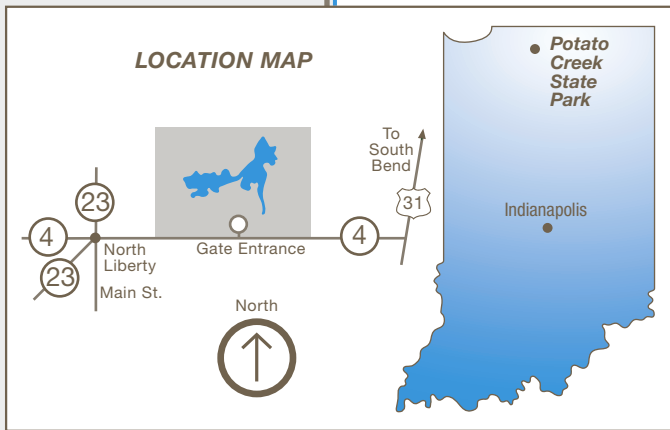


# POTATO CREEK STATE PARK

25601 State Road 4 • P.O. 908 • North Liberty, Indiana 46554  
(574) 656-8186 3,840 acres Established 1969



**PICNIC SHELTER AREAS**

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

**TRAIL TABLE**

TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
①	2.2	Moderate
②	2	Rugged
③	1	Moderate
④	2.5	Moderate
⑤	1	Easy
⑥	.5	Easy
Friends	.75	Easy
B	.5	Easy
1	3.35	Bridle Trail
2	1.5	Bridle Trail
3	2.5	Bridle Trail
Bicycle	3.3	Moderate
Mt. Bike	7.4	Easy
CT	2.8	Easy
PL	.9	Easy

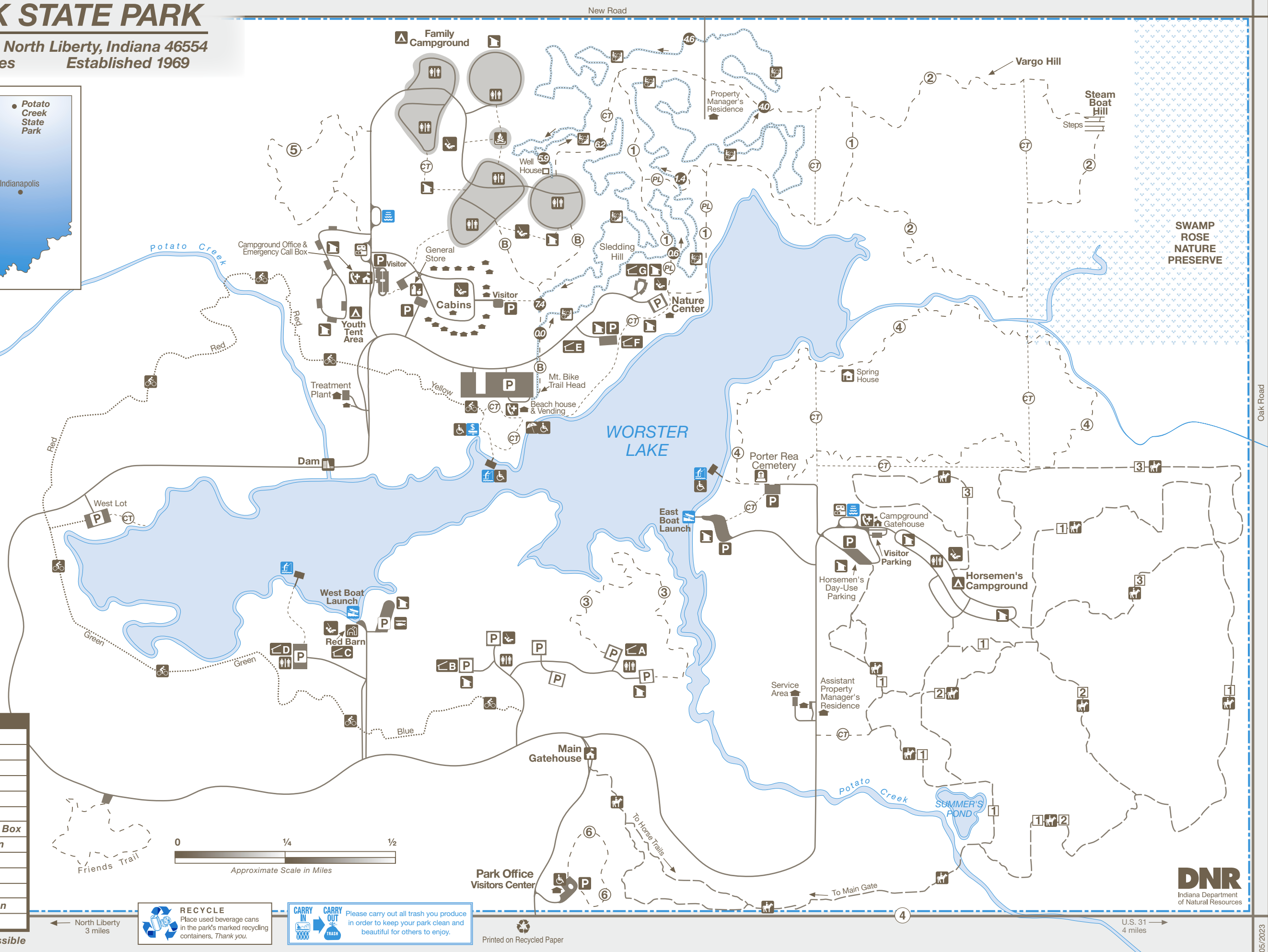
**LEGEND**

	Boundary		Accessible
	Road		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Playground
	Paved Bike Trail		General Store
	Horse Trail		Shelter
	Mt. Bike Trail		Vault Toilet
	Nature Preserve		Emergency Call Box
	Mileage Marker		Dumping Station
	Connectors		Beach
	Peppermint Loop		Fishing Pier
	Parking		Boat Rental
	Restroom		Water Fill Station
	Fish Cleaning Stn.		Campfire Circle

\* All restrooms and comfort stations are accessible



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U.S. 31 4 miles

by decades of farming and other land uses before the area became a park.

In the early 1990s an active resource management program started at Potato Creek. The program's ongoing efforts seek to restore and maintain some of the park's natural areas, such as its natural wetlands. The goal is to re-create conditions resembling those of the presettlement days of the early 1800s.

Several areas are being restored to provide valuable habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The wetland types include saturated soil sedge meadows, shallow marshes, swamps and beaver ponds. Today, more than a square mile of the park is covered by wetlands and Worster Lake. These areas abound in wildlife, especially during spring and fall bird migrations.

Native prairie also is being returned to the Potato Creek landscape through plantings. The prairie areas will be maintained by periodic controlled burning. These meadows put on a colorful late summer flower and grass display.

Other areas of the park are being allowed to grow into hardwood forests. Among the highlights of the forests are the spring wildflower displays and a variety of wildlife, including songbirds, raccoon, fox, coyote and turkey.

Swamp Rose Nature Preserve, located in the northeast section, offers a look at the eutrophic process. This means that a lake has slowly, over hundreds of years, become a wetland. A scenic small stream originates in this wetland and flows into Worster Lake. The nature preserve also has several unusual plants and is a favored location for beavers.

This blend of wetlands, prairies and forests reflects what was recorded as being here before the first European settlers arrived in the 1830s. Because of the rich variety of natural habitats, Potato Creek was named as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2006. This international designation is bestowed on areas critical to birds during some part of their life cycle.

Potato Creek's varied natural communities also provide homes for a wide array of other wildlife and plants for today's park visitors and for future generations to enjoy.

### Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding wildlife 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.

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**BICYCLING**—There is both a 3.3-mile paved trail with some hilly and curvy stretches and a 7.4-mile beginner-level mountain bike trail. Standard bicycle rentals are available, or visitors may bring their own bicycle. Helmets recommended on mountain bike trail.

**BOATS, CANOES, PADDLEBOATS, KAYAKS & TROLLING MOTORS**—Day or hour rental. Boat rental is accessible. Hours vary—please call.

**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, is allowed. A mooring area is available for a nominal fee.

**CAMPING**—Tent and trailer sites available. Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water, showers, electricity, a dump station and water-filling station. No water or sewage hookups. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Sites accommodate six people. A separate horsemen's campground is available—all campers must have horses, and all horses must have tags. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

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

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**—More than 8 miles of trails when snow-covered. Tubing, sledding and ice fishing are also available. Equipment is not provided.

**FAMILY CABINS**—Open year-round. Cabins accommodate eight people. There are two bedrooms, bath, kitchen with pots/pans, dining area and screened porch. Cabins are rented Saturday to Saturday, mid-June through mid-August. Two consecutive-night rentals can be made 30 days in advance if available. Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday nights must be rented together the rest of the year. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. **No pets allowed.** Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

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

**HORSE TRAILS**—Trails begin at horsemen's campground. Horses permitted only on bridle trails. No rentals available.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Enjoy natural resource interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules available at [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](http://InterpretiveServices.IN.gov) or (574) 656-8186.

**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grills, restrooms, playground, playfields, and shelters with electricity. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

**SWIMMING**—Free beach with accessible area. Beach and beach house open Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. Conditions may require beach closing before Labor Day.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> 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.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups permitted in the family campground.
- 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 shall put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, and park only in designated areas, not on grass.
- Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 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 park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Do not park on grass. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Metal detectors are allowed on main beach between Labor Day and Memorial Day with written permission from the property manager.
- Park is closed from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. No one is allowed in the park, except campers and cabin guests using their sites between these hours.

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

## DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- **Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area**—archery, boat ramps, dog training areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching
- **Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve**—bird observation platform, hiking trail
- **Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area**—fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

## 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](http://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](http://IndianalInns.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Potato Creek State Park  
25601 State Road 4  
P.O. Box 908  
North Liberty, IN 46554

Call: (574) 656-8186  
Online: [on.IN.gov/potatocreeksp](http://on.IN.gov/potatocreeksp)

## 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.

## THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

## BECOME A PARK VOLUNTEER

If you would like to help support and enhance Potato Creek's facilities and programs, join the Friends of Potato Creek. For more information, see [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](http://InterpretiveServices.IN.gov).



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](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit [OutdoorIndiana.org](http://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.

## DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
<b>Trail 1</b> Skirts Worster Lake, passing through old fields and maple and oak-hickory forest. Returns to Nature Center area.	2.2 miles	Moderate
<b>Trail 2</b> Accessed either from Trail 1 or Trail 4. Winds through woods, up and down hills, to highest point in park.	2 mile	Rugged
<b>Trail 3</b> Travels along ridge overlooking Worster Lake, passing through beech-maple forest and down to lake observation deck.	1 miles	Moderate
<b>Trail 4</b> Scenic path along stream through beech-maple woods, past the lake and old farm sites.	2.5 miles	Moderate
<b>Trail 5</b> Rolling trail cuts through old fields. Has small wetland observation deck.	1 miles	Easy
<b>Trail 6</b> Short loop passes wetland and woods.	.5 miles	Moderate
<b>Friends Wetland Trail</b> Passes three wetland observation decks.	.75 miles	Easy
<b>Peppermint Loop Trail</b> 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.	.9 mile	Easy
<b>Paved Bicycle Trail</b> 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.	3.3 miles	Moderate
<b>Mountain Bike Trail</b> 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.	7.4 miles	Easy

## PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

For a list of park events, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov)

## DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources



Native Americans once collected plants with potato-like roots on this area's creek banks. The early settlers' English translation for the name those people gave that plant was "wild potato," hence the name "Potato" Creek.

Darcey Worster and fellow conservation club members first proposed a man-made reservoir on Potato Creek in the late 1930s. Their project was halted by World War II. Worster kept that dream alive by sending his hand-crafted insects to state officials to "bug" them about creating a park. His efforts succeeded when the area was designated to become a park in 1969.

Potato Creek State Park, 3 miles east of North Liberty on State Road 4, became a reality on June 6, 1977, when the 6-square-mile (3,840-acre) area was formally dedicated. The park's 327-acre Worster Lake is named for Potato Creek's clever early supporter. In addition to the many recreational facilities that Potato Creek offers, visitors will find a variety of natural areas. Most were drastically altered

INDIANA on.IN.gov/stateparks