



# Hoosier National Forest Highlights



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## Shower / Toilet Buildings Replaced at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area

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New shower and toilet buildings have gone up this year at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. The new buildings bring the facility into compliance with required building codes including standards for accessibility. The new buildings also reduce annual maintenance costs.

Eight existing shower and toilet buildings were demolished and replaced with five new ones. A double-vault SST (Sweet Smelling Toilet) or pit toilet was also constructed. Formerly each building had one sink, two toilet fixtures, and one shower per men's and women's sides. The new shower and toilet buildings have three sinks and three toilet fixtures per side. In addition, there are four individual shower rooms, including one family-style shower room that has its own toilet and sink.

The new shower and toilet buildings were designed to meet current building codes and LEED standards. LEED stand for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. This rating means that a building is "designated" green or environmentally friendly. LEED provides standards for environmentally sustainable design, construction, and operation of buildings and neighborhoods. There are four levels of LEED certification that buildings can qualify for. The levels are, from lowest to highest: certified, silver, gold, and platinum. We originally designed the shower and toilet buildings to meet the certified level and thought they might reach silver certification. However, when we submitted the building design LEED review professionals would not review the buildings because they are not permanently occupied. So the shower and toilet buildings did not receive official LEED certification, but were designed and built to meet certification anyway.

Designers developed the shower and toilet buildings to be as durable and maintenance free as possible. Many recycled products were used in construction. Solar light tubes that collect and funnel sunlight into the rooms,

brighten the interior. On a bright day, light from these tubes is easily mistaken for fluorescent lights because they work so well. Speckled, multi-color epoxy paint covers the walls, and toilet stall partitions are made of recycled plastic. All water fixtures conserve water and the light fixtures are high efficiency and motion sensor activated. Split face block and cement board siding makes for an attractive appearance on the building exterior.

Tri-County Builders are constructing the new shower and toilet buildings. Several of the buildings will be ready for use by Memorial Day and the rest of the buildings should be ready by midsummer. The new shower and toilet buildings will be a big improvement to the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area that campers will be able to enjoy for years to come.

For more information on the design or construction of these buildings contact James Klug at the Bedford office, 812-276-4769 or [jklug@fs.fed.us](mailto:jklug@fs.fed.us).

Captions:



One of the new environmentally-friendly shower and toilet buildings at Hardin Ridge Campground.



Closeup of Light Tubes from the outside and diffuse windows that maximize light.



Inside view of light tubes and motion detecting florescent lights.