Trails

Forest trails are provided for hiking, horse riding, and mountain bike use. Hikers may also hike anywhere on the Forest off trail, but horse and mountain bike riders are required to stay on designated trails. Remember to tread lightly, practice the leave no trace ethics, and respect other trail users.

A trail permit tag is required for horse and mountain bike use on most trails. Riders 16 years of age and younger are exempt.

Wilderness

The 13,000-acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness (CCDW) is the only Congruentially designated wilderness area in Indiana.

The purpose of wilderness areas is to preserve natural ecosystems and provide for solitude in a natural-appearing environment, both now and for generations to come. The CCDW provides trails for hiking and equestrian use, hunting, fishing, and other forms of nonmechanized and non-mechanized recreation.

Camping and Picnicking

Some campgrounds offer sites with electricity and water hookups; others offer a secluded spot to pitch a tent. Group camping is also available.

Picnic shelters and day use areas are also scattered around the Hoosier near beaches, fields, or fishing lakes for families to enjoy.

In addition, primitive camping and picnicking is allowed almost anywhere on the Hoosier with a few exceptions. If you plan to venture off the trails, we recommend you purchase a map before your outing to ensure you don’t trespass on private land.

Reservations may be made at some of our campgrounds. Occupancy is on a first come, first served basis.

Holders of the Federal Senior and Access passes will receive a 50% price reduction on the basic camping fee and daily parking fee.

Fishing & Water Sports

The Hoosier has some of the most popular fishing lakes in southern Indiana, and anglers enjoy the opportunities to fish Forest waters year round. An Indiana fishing license is required for those age 17-65 and all state regulations apply.

Hunt access points on Monroe Lake, the Ohio River, Tippecanoe, Celia, Indiana, and Saddle Lakes offer fishing and boating enthusiasts access to various waters.

Swimming beaches are offered at three of our recreation areas, but no lifeguards are on duty.

History

The Hoosier National Forest is a remnant of the forests that once covered the Midwest. Set in the rolling countryside of southern Indiana, the Hoosier National Forest is an outstanding example of the best remaining forest land in Indiana. The Hoosier is a patchwork of land over nine counties, so take care to reconnect with nature, hike, fish, and explore.

The land here is a mosaic of diverse kinds of natural communities, each with a unique combination of biological and geological features. The Hoosier National Forest sites. Both prehistoric Native American, then by European-Americans. As settlement increased, trees were cut and the hill country was converted to farmland.

After 100 years of use on land never suitable for farming, the steep hills were eroding, the soil was depleted of nutrients, and droughts occurred several years in a row. When crop prices continued to drop, farmers abandoned their farms and homes. They left behind eroded hillsides that nobody wanted.

In 1933, the U.S. Congress, at the behest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorized the purchase of land in southern Indiana, which is the only Congressionally designated wilderness in the state.

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Hoosier National Forest Recreation Sites

* Open field without defined campsites. ** Cabins also available

Trails may have more than one use. Mileage may indicate multiple uses, not separate trail systems.

This guide is NOT to be used as a detailed map of the Forest. Road and trail locations are only approximations.

Forest Visitor Maps at the 1/2 inch to the mile scale are available by mail or from either Hoosier National Forest office for a fee. Topographic maps indicating national forest ownership are also available.

For more information visit the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier

### Site Name & Map Key

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<th>Site Name</th>
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