



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Camping Opportunities

Hoosier National Forest



Pick your style.

We offer a variety of camping experiences to suit your unique style.



Developed:

Need electrical hook-ups, water, or a dump station for your RV? Want access to paved roads and shower houses? Look for our developed campgrounds at Indian-Celina Lakes, Hardin Ridge, or Tipsaw Lake Recreation Areas. These sites are what most would call the "campground experience."

Primitive:

All you need is you, your tent, and a place to picnic - but you still want the campground atmosphere. Primitive sites at Blackwell, Buzzard Roost, German Ridge, Hickory Ridge, Saddle Lake, Shirley Creek, and Youngs Creek offer a place to set your tent and a modest restroom.

Dispersed:

These sites are found throughout the national forest along roads and are marked with a brown post which reads "campsite." Rugged and secluded, dispersed sites are great for car camping or visitors with small trailers or campers. Maps featuring all dispersed campsite locations are available on our website.

How do I reserve my site?

Developed campsites, picnic shelters, and group sites where available are reservable through the website **Recreation.gov** or by calling the campground gatehouses directly.

Reservations can be booked six months in advance. Good weather on a holiday weekend? Better call ahead. Developed campgrounds may offer first-come, first-serve sites along with reservable sites.

How do I pay for my site?

If you make your reservations online, you can pay there too! For first-come first-serve **developed sites**, payment is required at the entrance.

Primitive sites are cash-only, cannot be reserved, and paid for at the time of your arrival. Information boards at each primitive campground loop have rules, regulations, and directions on how to pay.

Dispersed sites do not require a fee.

What about firewood?

Campground hosts at **developed sites** will have firewood available for purchase during the operating season. Local retailers often have pre-wrapped bundles available for sale. At **primitive** and **dispersed** sites, dead and down firewood may be collected from the campground for your personal use. Heat-treated and debarked wood purchased locally or brought from Indiana is also permitted.

Hoosier National Forest

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Recreation Areas with Campgrounds

Hoosier National Forest

Northern Hoosier National Forest

Hardin Ridge Recreation Area

- Developed campsites (electric, standard, walk-in)
- Picnic shelters and day-use areas
- Private primitive cabins
- Shower houses available
- Access to boat ramp, seasonal swimming beach and hiking trails

Shirley Creek Campground (Equestrian friendly)

- All users welcome for camping and day-use
- Access to horse/hike/mountain bike trails

Blackwell Campground (Equestrian friendly)

- All users welcome for camping and day-use
- Potable water
- Picnic shelter and day-use parking
- Access to horse/hike and hike-only Wilderness trails

Hickory Ridge Campground (Equestrian friendly)

- All users welcome for camping and day-use
- Access to horse/hike/mountain bike trails

Youngs Creek Campground (Equestrian friendly)

- All users welcome for camping and day-use
- Picnic shelter
- Access to horse/hike/mountain bike trails

Camping for more than fourteen (14) days in a twenty-eight (28) day period, or for **28 cumulative days annually** in the Hoosier National Forest, is **prohibited by law**. This regulation is in place to protect natural resources and property, as well as to enhance recreational opportunities for all users of National Forest System lands.

36 C.F.R. § 261.58(a)

Southern Hoosier National Forest

Buzzard Roost Recreation Area

- Access to interpretive trail and short, rugged hiking trail to Ohio River

German Ridge Recreation Area (Equestrian friendly)

- All users welcome for camping and day-use
- Access to picnic shelter, seasonal swimming beach, and horse/hike/mountain bike trails

Indian-Celina Lakes Recreation Area

- Developed campsites (electric, standard, walk-in)
- Shower houses available
- Access to boat ramp, fishing pier, and hiking/interpretive trails

Tipsaw Lake Recreation Area

- Campsites (electric, standard, doubles and singles)
- Group campsites (electric hook-ups available)
- Picnic shelters (electric and water)
- Shower houses available
- Access to boat ramp, picnic areas, seasonal swimming beach, and hike/mountain bike trail

Saddle Lake Recreation Area

- Access to boat ramp and hiking trail

Detailed information on every camping area is available on the website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/hoosier>

***Equestrian Friendly:** Horse riders can find space at these campgrounds for trailers, hitching, and access to riding trails. Camping and day-use areas are available.

Campground Management:

Hardin Ridge, Indian-Celina Lakes, and Tipsaw Lake Recreation Areas are managed by campground concessionaires **BA Services** from **April** through **late October**. Reservations, payments, and any other questions can be directed to the campground hosts during this time. Contact information for these sites is available on **Recreation.gov** or by calling **BA Services** at **(207)-307-7903**.

Many campsites are open to the public year-round with reduced services after the summer season.

November, 2025

Contact Us:

Brownstown Ranger District

(Northern Hoosier National Forest)
(812)-275-5987

Tell City Ranger District

(Southern Hoosier National Forest)
(812)-547-7051

Visit our website and Facebook page for more information!