

20
26

The
Pathfinder

Welcome

Across ever-changing seasons and generations, Lake County Parks are places to explore, learn, and come together. The programs and spaces in this Pathfinder reflect our commitment to community traditions and everyday opportunities to connect with nature right in your own backyard. Your parks support all kinds of experiences, from quiet moments to laughter-filled days and awe-inspiring discoveries. Behind every visit is a dedicated team of staff and volunteers serving as stewards by caring for these spaces and creating transformative experiences. Thank you for spending your time in parks. We look forward to another great year ahead.

Get Out, Go Play, Explore!

Your Friends at
Lake County Parks

P.S. Worried about missing something? We'll send you monthly reminders about upcoming programs and events. Sign up at lakecountyparks.com, or email info@lakecountyparks.com with "sign up" in the subject line!



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

PASSES + FEES

Parking Fees are collected seasonally at Lake Etta, Lemon Lake, Oak Ridge Prairie, and Stoney Run. \$5 IN Resident, \$8 out of state
Parking Passes are available for annual purchase for \$40
Additional Fees For rates and admission fees at Deep River Waterpark, Bellaboo's, or specific programs, please visit the location's website.



VOLUNTEER HERE

Want to be a part of what's happening with Lake County Parks? We LOVE new volunteers-- learn more and sign up at lakecountyparks.com/volunteer



HOURS

Most Lake County Parks are open year-round from 7 AM to Sunset. Hours may differ for shops, golf facilities, Bellaboo's, Deep River Waterpark, and Gibson Woods Nature Center.

CONTACT US

Main Office Located at
8411 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Crown Point, IN 46307
Office Open Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

219-769-PARK
info@lakecountyparks.com
www.lakecountyparks.com



Office Closures for Holidays & Staff Trainings
January 1 & 19, February 16 & 23, April 3, May 25, June 19, July 3, September 7, October 12, November 11, 26 & 27, and December 24, 25 & 31.

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More information on all programs can be found at lakecountyparks.com/calendar
Registration is available at lakecountyparks.com/register

If you'd like to be a part of this publication in the future, contact Emily at EmilyT@lakecountyparks.com

Cover photo Buckley Homestead County Park

Mission

To make Lake County, Indiana an exceptional place for all people by providing impactful experiences through parks and programs.

Values

There are many goals within the department, all are guided by these values.

Service

We exist to serve our community. Through our parks, programs, and public spaces, we strive to provide welcoming, enriching, and responsive experiences that meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

Discovery

People thrive when they connect—with nature, with others, and with new experiences. Through our parks and programs, we provide opportunities to explore, learn, and discover—whether it's a new skill, a piece of local history, or a deeper appreciation for the environment.

Play

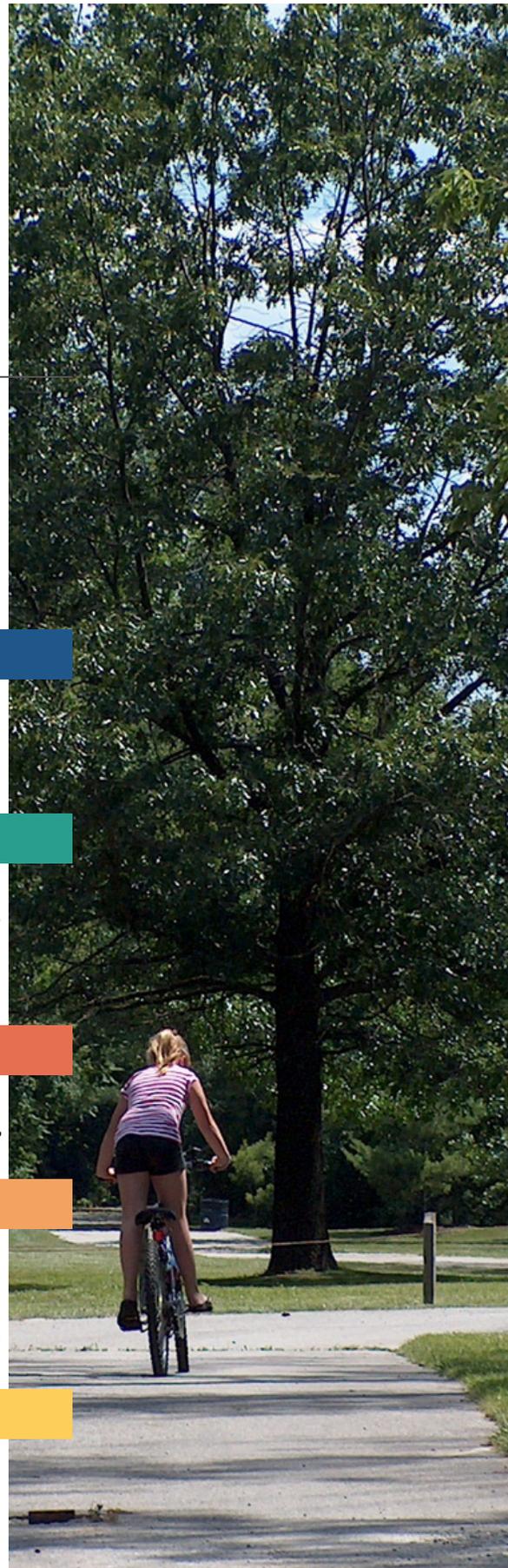
We believe play is for everyone! No matter your age or ability, our parks and programs create space for exploration, creativity, and fun—because play has no limits.

Inclusion

Lake County Parks & Rec is for everyone. We are committed to accessibility, ensuring that all members of our diverse community—regardless of identity, mobility, age, ability, or economic standing—can enjoy and engage with our spaces and programs.

Stewardship

We don't take our responsibility lightly. We are respectful of not just our environmental resources but act as good stewards of all the services we provide for today and for future generations.





Lake County Parks Main Office

8411 E. Lincoln Hwy. Crown Point
219-769-PARK
LakeCountyParks.com

Get Out. Go Play. Explore!

Lake County Parks manages over 7,000 acres across more than a dozen locations, including parks, trails, and unique recreational facilities. The main office is your hub for information and planning! Stop by or give us a call to reserve picnic shelters, register for programs and special events, arrange school field trips, or purchase parking passes. Our staff is here to help you make the most of everything Lake County Parks has to offer.

*The office is open
Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Online Registration is available at
lakecountyparks.com/register*



Bellaboo's Play & Discovery Center

2800 Colorado St. Lake Station, IN
Birthday Parties, Field Trips, Daily Visits & More! · MyBellaboos.com

Big imaginations start here. Discover hands-on play designed especially for little learners.

Bellaboo's is a place designed just for kids to imagine, create, and explore. Inside, little ones can build, climb, pretend, and play their way through themed areas that spark curiosity and creativity. Outside, families can dig, splash, and stretch their legs in the gardens and play spaces. With special programs and seasonal activities throughout the year, every visit brings something new to discover. *\$11 per person, designed for kids 10 & under.*

Key Features: 12 Hands-On Play Areas · Imagination Garden · Daily Themed Activities · Seasonal Splash Play · Art · On-Site Café

*Open Year Round, Tuesday-Sunday.
For Seasonal Hours Visit MyBellaboos.com*



Buckley Homestead County Park

3606 Belshaw Rd. Lowell, IN



Go back with Buckley and experience a working farm that brings history to life.

Buckley Homestead brings Lake County's rural history to life, not just during special events, but in the everyday rhythm of the working farm. Walk the trails, say hello to the cows and chickens, and take in the views of a homestead that has been here for generations. There's always something new (or old!) to see, do, and discover.

Key Features: Historic Working Farm · Farm Animals · Picnic Shelters · Walking Trails · Hayrides · Special Events

*Open Daily from 7 AM to Sunset
For Group Tours Call 219-769-PARK*



Cedar Creek Family Golf Course

10483 W. 109th Ave. Cedar Lake, IN

A course for every golfer, from first drive to final putt.

Cedar Creek Golf Course offers a friendly, relaxed place to play—perfect for beginners, families, and anyone looking for a quick round. Players can warm up or practice their swing at the driving range, then enjoy a casual round on the 9-hole executive course surrounded by a quiet, open landscape. Affordable rates and an easygoing atmosphere make Cedar Creek an ideal spot to learn, practice, and simply enjoy the game.

Key Features: 9-Hole Executive Course · Driving Range · Clubhouse with Golf Essentials

For Hours & Rates Visit LakeCountyParks.com



Deep River County Park - Historic Entrance

9410 Old Lincoln Hwy. Hobart, IN



Discover the heart of Deep River County Park with historic buildings and river side trails.

The Historic Entrance is the heart of Deep River County Park. Here, Wood's Historic Grist Mill stands as a reminder of the area's early industry, while the sawmill, gazebo, and open green spaces make it a favorite for weddings, picnics, and weekend strolls. Stop by the visitor center and gift shop, or plan your visit around one of the park's many programs and events, there's always something happening in this beautiful, historic setting.

Key Features: Historic Grist Mill · Visitor Center & Gift Shop · Picnic Areas & Gazebo

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Visitor Center Open Seasonally
May-October, Thursday-Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM*



Deep River County Park - Big Maple Lake

7302 Ainsworth Rd. Hobart, IN



Quiet trails, calm waters, and plenty of room to breathe.

Tucked away on the northern edge of Deep River County Park, Big Maple Lake offers a quiet place to fish, walk, and relax along the water. Shady trails loop through the woods, and the calm lake makes this a great space to spend the day outdoors. Peaceful, scenic, and one of the department's best-kept secrets for those looking to slow down and enjoy nature.

Key Features: Fishing · Hiking & Horse Trails · Hayrides · Picnic Shelters

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Parking is Closed when Ice & Snow is Present*



Deep River County Park - County Line Rd.

7510 County Line Rd. Hobart, IN



A place to play, picnic, and make memories.

If you like your park days a little more off the beaten path, head to the County Line side of Deep River. With picnic shelters, a playground, and trails that are a little more rugged, the park has everything you need for your outdoor adventure. Rustic, relaxed, and full of the simple charm that will keep you coming back.

Key Features: Wooded Trails · Picnic Shelters · Playground · Leashed Pets Welcome

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Parking is Closed when Ice & Snow is Present*



Deep River Waterpark

9001 E. Lincoln Hwy.

Summer Fun and Winter Ice Skating · DeepRiverWaterpark.com

Deep River Waterpark-- It's Simply Splashtastic!

Splash into summer at Deep River Waterpark, where families have been making memories for 30 years. From twisting slides to the relaxing lazy river, it's a place built for both thrills and easygoing fun. Bring a cooler or grab something from the park's great lineup of food stands, and enjoy a full day of play with confidence thanks to the Deep River's weather guarantee.

Key Features: 18 Waterslides · Wave Pool · 2 Lazy Rivers · Kiddie Play Areas · Frozen Fun with Winter Ice Skating

*Summer Season: Memorial Day - Labor Day,
Winter Season: Black Friday through January
For Hours Visit DeepRiverWaterpark.com*

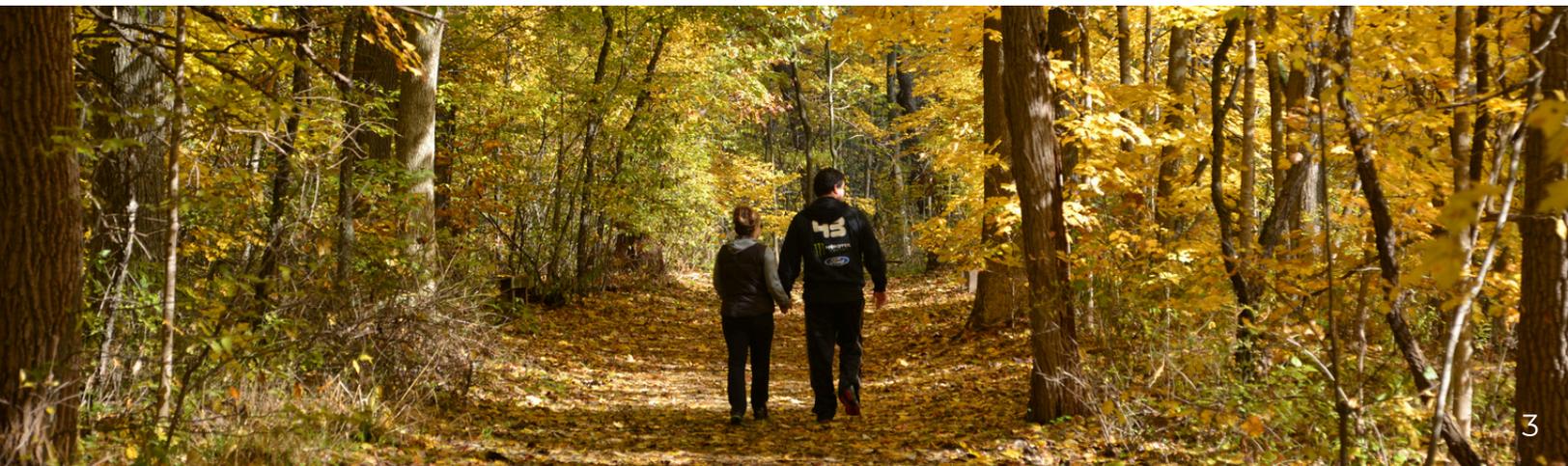




Photo by Dennis Gray - Grand Kankakee Marsh



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

6201 Parrish Ave. Hammond, IN



A hidden gem for nature lovers, where rare dune and swale landscapes, diverse wildlife, and hands-on learning await.

Gibson Woods Nature Preserve is one of just a few state-dedicated preserves in Lake County where visitors can explore 179 acres of rare dune and swale habitat. Three miles of trails wind through this unique topography, perfect for birdwatching, observing wildlife, and discovering the subtle wonders of nature. The educational nature center offers programs connecting visitors of all ages to the park's ecology.

Key Features: Educational Nature Center · 3 Miles of Trails · Indoor Bird Viewing Room

*Gibson Woods is open Tuesday-Sunday
Visit LakeCountyParks.com for seasonal hours.*



Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

21690 Range Line Rd. Hebron, IN



Explore 1,952 acres of diverse habitats along the historic Kankakee River, teeming with wildlife and outdoor adventure.

Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park features wetlands, woodlands, and river channels that provide a rich habitat for deer, ducks, and other wildlife. Visitors can hike, fish, birdwatch, or ride horseback on designated trails. The park is also a hunting location and offers a boat launch for exploring the Kankakee River.

Key Features: Canoe & Boat Launch · Hiking & Horse Trails · Fishing · Birdwatching · Seasonal Hunting

Trails are closed to the public during hunting season (Late September through February)



Lake Etta County Park

4801 W. 29th Ave. Gary, IN



Where gatherings meet the great outdoors.

Lake Etta County Park spans 112 acres along the Little Calumet River, offering scenic walking trails, ample picnic shelters, and a fishing pond. The park's banquet hall, pergola, and large group pavilions make it an ideal destination for reunions, celebrations, and community gatherings. Despite easy access from the interstate and local attractions, the park is a surprisingly serene, natural retreat.

Key Features: Banquet Hall · Picnic Shelters · Fishing Pond · Large Group Pavilion · Walking Trails · Leashed Pets Welcome

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Gate Fee Collected Seasonally*



Lemon Lake County Park

6322 W. 133rd Ave. Crown Point, IN



A classic county park with something for everyone.

Lemon Lake County Park covers over 400 acres of forests, fields, and lakefront, making it a go-to destination for recreation and outdoor fun. Visitors can hike or stroll the trails, play a round of disc golf on any of the several courses, or enjoy picnic shelters and sports fields. The park offers scenic trails, peaceful opportunities to connect with nature, and plenty of open space for family activities.

Key Features: Disc Golf Courses · Paved & Natural Trails · Picnic Shelters · Playground · Off-Leash Dog Park

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Gate Fee Collected Seasonally*



Oak Ridge Prairie

301 S. Colfax St. Griffith, IN



Wide-open skies, winding trails, and room to roam.

Oak Ridge Prairie spans 965 acres of woods, fields and remnant prairie ecosystem, where shaded trails lead you through oak savanna, marsh and open meadows. The park is a trailhead for the popular Oak Savannah and Erie Lackawanna trails, making it a favorite for walkers, bikers, and nature-seekers alike. Two large playgrounds, open play fields and a sledding hill add fun for families, while fall hayrides and a large fishing pond make every season worth a visit.

Key Features: Regional Trail Access · Family Playgrounds · Hiking · Picnic Shelters · Sledding Hill · Hayrides

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Gate Fee Collected Seasonally*



Stoney Run

9230 E. 142nd Ave. Hebron, IN



Explore a tranquil mix of forested trails and open spaces, perfect for hiking, gathering, and moments of quiet reflection.

At Stoney Run, peaceful fields and gently rugged woodland trails create a landscape that invites reflection and exploration. The park is vibrant with trails, shelters, and seasonal hayrides, and it is home to Lake County's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a thoughtful, quiet place surrounded by nature. Whether you're out for a hike or simply looking for some quiet, Stoney Run offers space to unwind and explore.

Key Features: Nature Trails · Woodland Habitat · Vietnam Veterans Memorial · Hayrides · Picnic Shelters

*Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily
Gate Fee Collected Seasonally*



Three Rivers County Park

2800 Colorado St. Lake Station



A calm, convenient place to walk, fish, and enjoy time outdoors.

Three Rivers County Park is a small, easygoing green space that offers a peaceful break from busy days. The paved lakeside trail is perfect for a short walk, a relaxing loop with kids, or a quiet moment by the water. Anglers enjoy fishing the lake, and the park's single large shelter makes a comfortable setting for birthday parties, reunions, and community gatherings. Walking paths extend toward the Deep River corridor, giving visitors a gentle way to connect with the surrounding landscape.

Key Features: Paved Lakeside Trail · Fishing Lake · Picnic Shelter · Open Green Space

Park Open 7 AM - Sunset Daily



Turkey Creek Golf Course

6400 Harrison St. Merrillville

A full-size course and event destination with charm, challenge, and panoramic views.

Turkey Creek Golf Course features 18 holes of classic, mature golf with tree-lined fairways and gently rolling terrain that appeals to both seasoned players and casual golfers. At just over 6,100 yards, the course offers challenge and charm without feeling overwhelming. After your round, stop by the pro shop or the clubhouse for a break, or host your next gathering at the scenic event space with sweeping views of the course, dance floor, and access to Legendary Sports Bar & Grill.

Key Features: 18-Hole Course · Driving Range · Clubhouse & Pro Shop · Banquet Hall

For Hours & Rates Visit LakeCountyParks.com



Photo by Crystal Hollenbeck - Oak Ridge Prairie



Erie Lackawanna Trail

Access from Oak Ridge Prairie

Lake County Parks & Rec manages 1.5 miles of the Erie Lackawanna from Arbogast in Griffith to Burr St. in Schererville.

The Erie Lackawanna Trail is a 17-mile paved shared-use path that follows a historic rail corridor through Lake County, linking Hammond with Crown Point. Lake County Parks maintains about 1.5 miles of it, including a key access point at Oak Ridge Prairie, where you can connect to the nearby ten-mile Oak Savannah Trail. Along the way, the trail winds through wooded sections, open green spaces, and peaceful suburban stretches — offering a scenic route for walking, biking, and exploring the region’s nature and history.

Trails Close at Sunset



Oak Savannah Trail

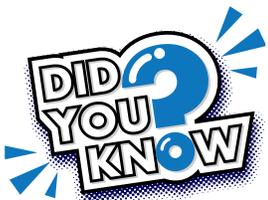
Access from Oak Ridge Prairie

Lake County Parks & Rec manages the 10.5 mile trail from Oak Ridge Prairie to County Line Rd.

The Oak Savannah Trail is a scenic, mostly wooded multi-use trail that spans roughly 10 miles from Oak Ridge Prairie to Hobart, passing through diverse habitats and open green spaces. Perfect for walking, running, or biking, it connects seamlessly with Lake County Parks’ portion of the Erie Lackawanna Trail at Oak Ridge Prairie, providing an extended network of trails for exploration. Along the way, trail users can enjoy serene natural landscapes, seasonal wildflowers, and opportunities to spot local wildlife, making it a favorite for both casual visitors and avid outdoor enthusiasts.

Trails Close at Sunset

More Great Trails in Lake County!



Lake County is home to several trail systems, many of which are managed through partnerships between local, county, and regional agencies. It takes extensive planning, maintenance, and collaboration to keep them safe and accessible. Residents and visitors alike can take pride in the county’s thriving trail network, which connects parks, natural areas, and communities for recreation, commuting, and exploration.

Lake County Parks & Rec is proud to be a collaborator on the following trails

C & O Greenway

A 5.5-mile paved rail-trail through Lake County that winds through wooded stretches and connects to the Oak Savannah Trail.

Ivan Gatlin Nature Preserve Trail

A short paved spur off the Erie Lackawanna Trail that skirts the Ivan Gatlin Nature Preserve, offering shady, natural scenery ideal for quiet walks and wildlife spotting.

Pennsy Greenway

A 13 mile asphalt rail-trail through Lake County that stretches from Schererville toward Illinois, offering a long, scenic route for biking and walking.

Veterans Memorial Trail

A developing 2.5-mile asphalt rail-trail honoring veterans and connecting Hebron to Crown Point via scenic, historic corridors.

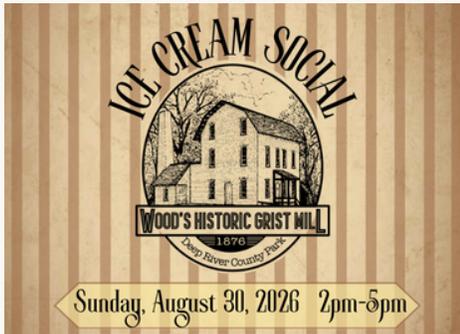
To find more Northwest Indiana Trails check out NIRPC’s Greenways & Blueways map! Available throughout the region and online at lakecountyparks.com/trails

2026 PARK SPOTLIGHT

Deep River County Park Named Legacy Park of the Year

Annually, the Indiana Park & Recreation Association recognizes exemplary programs, facilities, and initiatives from across the state. In November 2025, Lake County Parks' own Deep River County Park earned the prestigious **Legacy Park Award**, honoring a space that has truly stood the test of time. This award celebrates parks whose history, community impact, and enduring relevance have shaped generations, and Deep River County Park embodies all of that and more.

Deep River County Park's story stretches back nearly two centuries, beginning with John Wood's arrival in the 1830s. John Wood didn't set out to create a park, yet as he built his home, sawmill, and later the 1876 grist mill, he rooted a landscape that would grow into one of Lake County's most cherished gathering places. Today, Woods Historic Grist Mill stands not only as a preserved structure but as a memory for generations who recall the smell of ground cornmeal from school field trips, family photos by the water wheel, or quiet walks along the brick paths. As the park celebrates this statewide recognition, it also looks toward a milestone year: **2026 marks both the 150th anniversary of Wood's Historic Grist Mill and the 50th anniversary of the Parks Department's restoration completed in 1976**, a project that ensured this remarkable structure, and its stories, would endure.



Winning the Legacy Park Award is not just an acknowledgment of the past but a celebration of the community that continues to bring this place to life. Families return year after year, reliving childhood memories & forging

new traditions. As Deep River County Park steps into another historic milestone, it remains what it has always been: a space that keeps connecting people across generations.



DEEP RIVER WATERPARK
Over 30 Years of SPLAShtastic Fun!
From summer splashes to frozen winter fun, Deep River Waterpark is ready to welcome you.

deepriverwaterpark.com

YOUR LOGO

MAKE SPACE FOR MEMORIES

Shelter Rentals & Fall Hayrides

**Book
now**



SHELTER RENTALS

Shelter Rentals are available at the following locations.

Buckley Homestead - Standard Shelter

Deep River County Park - Standard Shelters
Available at County Line & Big Maple Lake

Lake Etta County Park - Standard Shelters + Large Group Pavilion with mixed use space

Lemon Lake County Park - Mix of Standard & Large Group Shelters

Oak Ridge Prairie - Standard Shelters

Stoney Run County Park - Standard Shelters & Group Campsites for non-profits

All shelters include a charcoal grill, electricity varies site to site.

Reserve at lakecountyparks.com/register or 219-769-PARK

FALL HAYRIDES & BONFIRES

Hayrides & Bonfires are available in September & October at the following locations.

- Buckley Homestead**
- Deep River County Park - Big Maple Lake**
- Oak Ridge Prairie**
- Stoney Run County Park**

Standard Rental includes a private, 1-hour hayride & a 1-hour bonfire. Reserve by calling 219-769-PARK



219-769-PARK



info@lakecountyparks.com



lakecountyparks.com/register

Say "I Do"

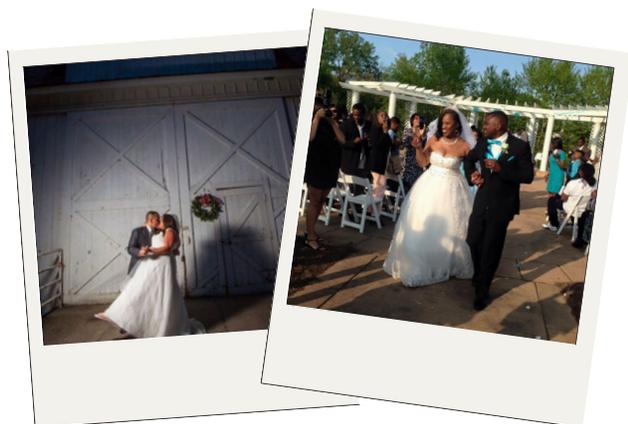
Photo by Treasure Rearden Photography

Celebrate your special day with the Lake County Parks

THE WEDDING GAZEBO AT DEEP RIVER

Deep River County Park offers a stunning natural backdrop for your wedding, with the charming Wood's Historic Grist Mill adding a touch of timeless beauty beside your ceremony gazebo.

2-Hour Rental includes seating for up to 100 guests.
\$250 + tax.



OTHER EVENT FACILITIES

Banquets on the Green, by Legendary Lloyds

Turkey Creek Golf Course is home to Legendary Lloyd's Banquets on the Green. The venue offers a charming atmosphere, and customizable menu options to create the event of your dreams. Contact: 219-887-3550

Lake Etta Banquets

Lake Etta County Park couples a convenient location with unmatched tranquility. The spacious, windowed hall overlooks the park and is just moments away from the Hard Rock Casino-- did somebody say after party? Contact: 219-923-3830

Lake Etta Wedding Pergola

Beautifully landscaped, host your wedding and reception all in one spot. Reservations: 219-923-3830

Engagement & Wedding Photos

Couples are welcome to take photos at any Lake County Park. Please be mindful of events and other park guests, and leave the space as you found it. We ask that no large props are brought in and all parties must park in the designated parking areas. Questions: info@lakecountyparks.com

CLUBS & COLLABS

CONWAY OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSES



Join volunteer astronomers at the Conway Observatory for relaxed, monthly open houses under the stars. Stop by to look through telescopes, stargaze on your own, or ask questions about what's visible in the night sky that month. Free, come-and-go, and always family-friendly.

- March 21 - Welcome Spring! (and Jupiter!) - 7-10 PM**
- April 18 - Jupiter & the Twins - 8-11 PM**
- May 16 - Venus & Jupiter in the Manger - 8:30-11:30 PM**
- June 13 - Welcome Summer! - 8:30-11:30 PM**
- July 11 - Venus, Jupiter, & Mercury - 8:30-11:30 PM**
- August 15 - Perseid Meteor Shower - 8-11 PM**
- October 10 - Saturn & the Goat - 6-9 PM**
- November 7 - Saturn & Andromeda - 5-9 PM**

Located South of Buckley Homestead at 19110 Chase Street Lowell, IN
For Weather Updates & More, Visit www.casonline.org

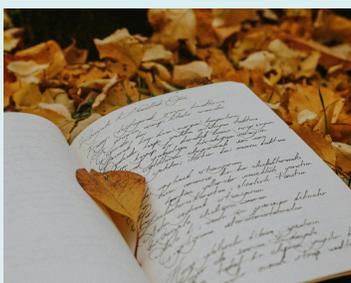
Deep River Plant Swap

Spring • April 11 • 9 - 10:30 AM
Fall • September 12 • 9 - 10:30 AM

Looking to grow your garden in an affordable, community centered way? Come out to the Deep River Plant Swap! Bring plants, cuttings, or seeds you no longer need, and swap them for something new!



Flowers, houseplants, fruits & vegetables all welcome! Please bring empty containers for easier swapping!



Lake County Parks Photo Club

Photographers, regardless of experience, gather to discuss technique, increase their craft, and take field trips to find the perfect spot. Drop in to learn, chat, and share your latest shots! Bring a flash drive with photos if you'd like to share.

Regular Season Meetings

at Turkey Creek Golf Course Banquet Hall
2nd Wednesdays at 6 PM
April-October

Winter Meetings

at Turkey Creek Golf Course Banquet Hall
2nd Saturdays at 10 AM
January, February, November

Field Trip Meetings

March 7th at Deep River County Park for Maple Syrup Time
December 5th at Deep River County Park for Christmas at the Mill

Nature Journal Club

Improve your memory, find serenity & peace, and have a new skill in your life toolbox! No experience is necessary for this fun outdoor experience! Bring a notebook, writing utensils, and a lawn chair and join in a morning of mindful nature enjoyment.

4th Sundays at Gibson Woods from 10 - 11:30 AM

Join Anytime

Register at lakecountyparks.com/register
Learn more at lakecountyparks.com/calendar



PEOPLE *make the* PARKS

Behind every trail, welcoming program, and well-loved picnic shelter is a team of staff, volunteers, and partners who care deeply about Lake County's outdoor spaces.

Before a single visitor steps inside a park, our staff are out early mowing fields, checking trails, caring for animals, opening gates, preparing for programs, and keeping every corner safe and inviting. Parks don't run on their own; they're built every day by the people who show up, put in the work, and believe in the value of these shared spaces.

Maintenance crews keep our parks safe and beautiful in every season, from summer heat to snowstorms. Educators and programmers spark curiosity in thousands of people each year, teaching families how to identify animal tracks, listen for birdsong, or experience the outdoors in new ways. Naturalists protect habitats, restore native landscapes, and ensure that wildlife has a place to thrive. And woven through all of it are volunteers, who clean trails, lend a hand at events, support educational programs, and bring their own energy and love into every park they touch.

Parks don't only come alive because of the people who care for them—they come alive for those who visit. Without anyone there, the grass would still grow, the trees would still fall, and the animals would quietly go about their lives, but when visitors arrive, something changes.

Acres turn into experiences and landscapes become lasting memories.

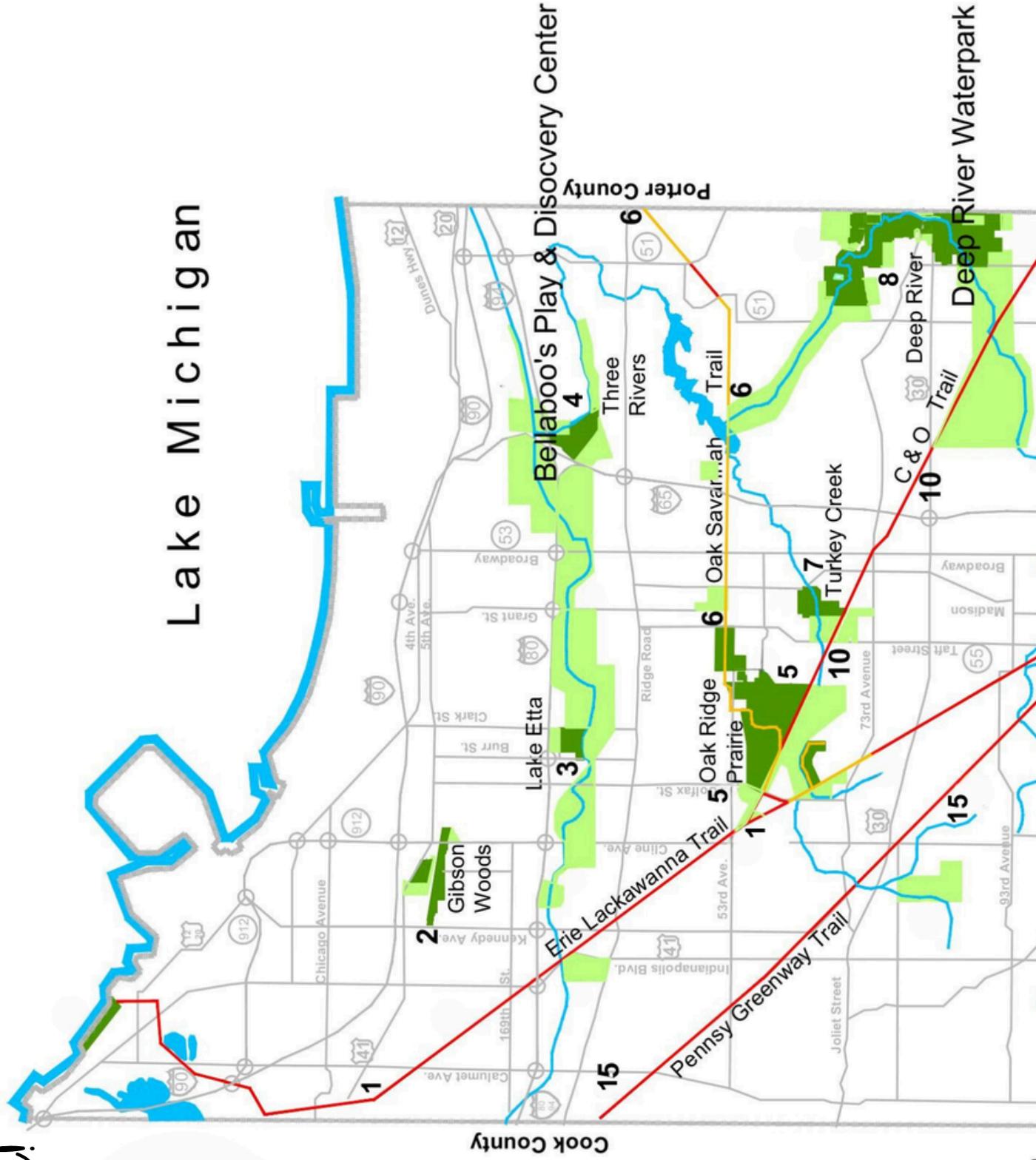


Parks don't just happen—they're made, maintained, protected, and brought to life by people who believe in their value. And every time a visitor takes a walk, shares a picnic, or discovers something new, that work becomes worth it all over again. Every great park story begins with people.



Find your Park!

1. Erie Lackawanna Trail
2. Gibson Woods Nature Preserve
3. Lake Etta County Park
4. Three Rivers County Park & Bellaboo's Play & Discovery Center
5. Oak Ridge Prairie County Park
6. Oak Savannah Trail
7. Turkey Creek Golf Course
8. Deep River County Park & Deep River Waterpark
9. Stoney Run County Park
10. C&O Trail
11. Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park
12. Buckley Homestead County Park
13. Lemon Lake County Park
14. Cedar Creek Family Golf Course
15. Pennsy Greenway Trail
16. Veterans Memorial Trail



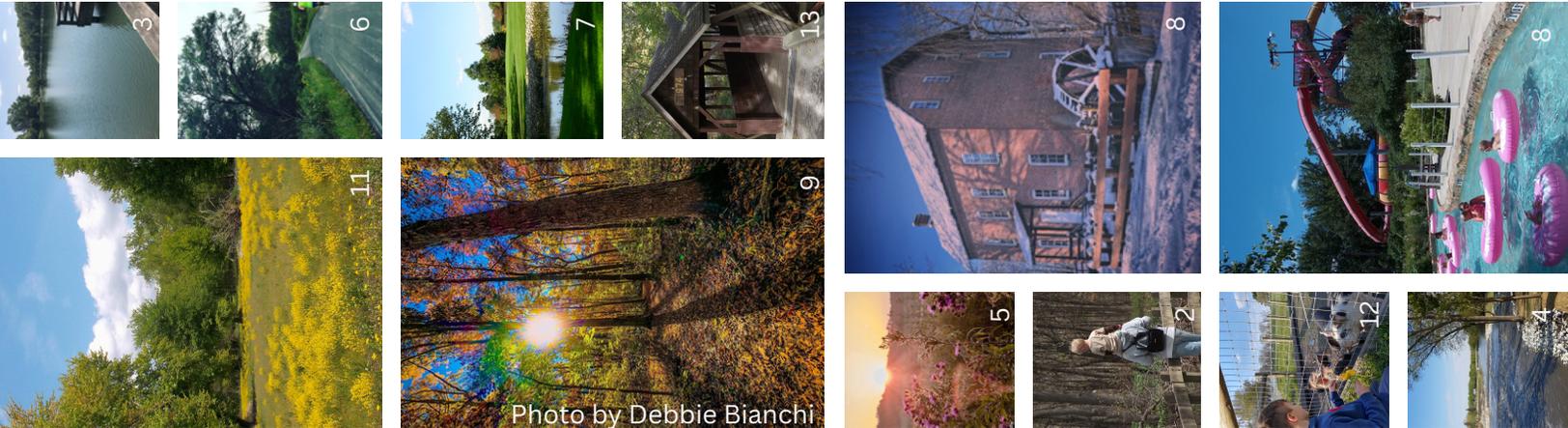
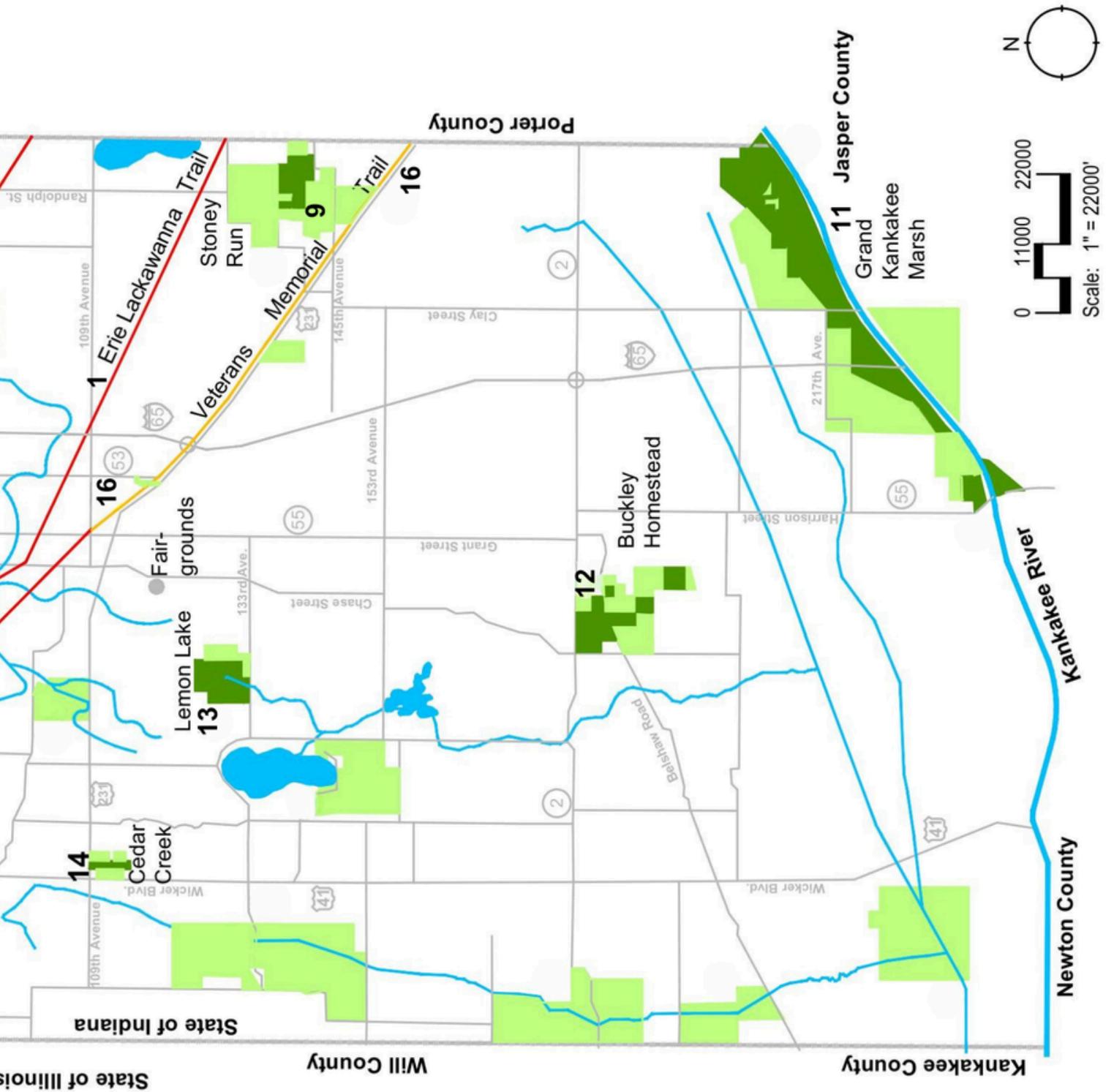


Photo by Debbie Bianchi

DON'T MISS IN 2026

Here's a look at some of our 2026 programs. There's more to be found at lakecountyparks.com/calendar

JANUARY

FIRST DAY HOT COCOA HIKE

Thursday, January 1, 3:30-5 PM

Begin the new year with a hike around Gibson Woods to enjoy the first sunset of 2026 and then warm up with some hot cocoa afterwards. **GW \$5** ★

WINTER FAIRY HOUSES

Saturday, January 3, 10:30 AM - Noon

Nature is full of lots of surprises—maybe even fairies! Participants will build a house in the woods for fairies and nature's friends to visit. **LL \$2/Child** ★

FULL MOON HIKE

Saturday, January 3, 5-6 PM

Winter is almost halfway over, so let's celebrate with an evening outside. We'll start as the sun sets and look for the moon as we walk around the park. Please dress for the weather. **ORP \$2** ★

NAME THAT TUNE

Wednesdays in January & February
9:30 -11 AM

Increase your birding lists by enhancing your birding skills! Join us virtually or in person as we launch into a weekly class to familiarize ourselves with the bird songs heard in Northwest Indiana throughout the year. Online details will be sent out upon registration. **GW Adults FREE** ▲

BEGINNER PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Sunday, January 18, 1-3:30 PM

Did you just get a camera for the holidays and aren't sure where to start? Join two long-time photo club members as they walk you through an introduction to your new camera. **GW Ages 16+ \$10** ★

FEBRUARY

DEEP RIVER VOLUNTEER POP-IN

Saturday, February 7, 10 AM - 2 PM

Have you wanted to be a part of making the magic happen at Deep River? Stop by between 10 AM and 2 PM and we'll get you set up to join in the fun alongside some of the best people out there. Can't make it? We'd still love to have you. Reach out at lakecountyparks.com/volunteer to get in touch! **DR**

GALENTINE'S DAY: SWIFTIE MUSICAL BINGO

Friday, February 13, 5:30pm to 8pm

Celebrate Galentine's Day with Swift Musical Bing-O at Bellaboo's. Bring your besties, moms, grandmas, or mini-me for a night of Taylor Swift hits, laughs, and fun! Doors open at 5:30 p.m., musical bingo runs from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Bellaboo's Café will be open serving Galentine's dinners and sweet treats, so come hungry and ready to sing along. Limited space, maximum Taylor energy! **BB All ages \$13** ★

S'MORES AND AMORES

Saturday, February 14 6:30-7:30 PM

Celebrate love and winter magic at Lemon Lake! Bask in the glow of a lantern-lit park around a crackling fire for an evening of warmth, connection, and delicious s'mores. Whether you're cuddling up with your sweetheart, or just celebrating with friends, join us for a love-filled evening outdoors. **LL \$5** ★

SNOW FORTS & SNOWVEMBER HUNT

Monday, February 16, 10:30-Noon

School's out + winter weather = outdoor fun day! Join us for this nature play day to keep the winter blues at bay. We'll have SNOW much fun sculpting, building, and finding some hidden items around the park. No snow? No problem! We'll find our building materials in the woods and enjoy the fresh air anyway! **ORP**



FIRESIDE MAPLE MINGLE

Friday, February 27, 6- 8 PM

Join us for an evening of music in the mill, toasty fires, warm maple apple cider, and experience the magic of maple syrup making. **DR \$10** ★

MARCH

MAPLE SYRUP TIME

Saturday & Sunday, March 7, 8, 14, 15,
10 AM - 4 PM

Learn the magic of nature. Find out what tree sap is, which trees produce sap that can be turned into syrup, and how and when sap can be collected. Our wood-fired evaporator turns sap into dark amber deliciousness. Hear the legend of how maple syrup was discovered as historical reenactors make maple sugar over an open fire. **DR FREE**

Key LOCATIONS

- BB** Bellaboo's
- BH** Buckley Homestead
- CAC** Calumet Astronomy Center
- DR** Deep River - Mill Entrance

- BML** Big Maple Lake
- GW** Gibson Woods
- LE** Lake Etta
- LL** Lemon Lake

- ORP** Oak Ridge Prairie
- SR** Stoney Run
- TR** Three Rivers

REGISTRATION

- ▲ Call 219-844-3188
- ★ Online at lakecountyparks.com
- ★ Online at mybellaboos.com
- ▲ Call 219-769-PARK
- At-the-Door Admission Also Available

APRIL

KID BIZ REGISTRATION OPENS

Monday, March 16

Got a big idea to share? Kids 15 & under can sign up to sell their creations at this year's Kid Biz Market. Whether it's crafts, services or clever inventions, this is your chance to showcase what you've got. Kid Biz Market will take place on Sunday, July 26 at Stoney Run. **\$5 SR** ★

SPRING FAIRY HOUSES

Wednesday, March 25, 10 - 11:30 AM

Nature is full of lots of Surprises—maybe even fairies! Participants will build a house in the woods for fairies and nature's friends to visit. Please dress for the weather. **BML \$2/Child** ★

WOODCOCK WALK

Thursday, March 26, 7:15 - 8:15 PM

Join us at dusk at Oak Ridge Prairie and usher in spring with the American Woodcock. Known for their spectacular flight and distinctive call, the American Woodcock is recognized as one of the earliest signs of spring! Please dress for the weather, as trails will be wet this time of year. **ORP \$2** ★

MEET THE BABIES

Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29, 11 AM - 3 PM

Celebrate spring with a day full of tiny hooves and cheerful peeps. Meet our newest goats, lambs, chicks, and other young farm friends as you explore and chat with interpreters in the open buildings. Enjoy a treat from our food vendors and feel good knowing your \$3 admission goes right back into feeding and caring for the animals all year long. **BH \$3**

Meet the Babies

March 28 & 29 11-3 Daily

BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FEED & CARE FOR THE ANIMALS ALL YEAR LONG!

NATURE SURVIVAL SKILLS: FIRE MAKING

Tuesday, March 31, 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Animals have amazing adaptations, but humans have some pretty handy tools, too! Join us as we learn about the 3 R's of survival and try our hands at fire building. **SR \$5**

FAQs

Are there more programs than these?

Yes! Find more programs at lakecountyparks.com/calendar

What should I do if I'm having trouble registering online?

If lakecountyparks.com/register isn't working for you, you can always give us a call at 219-769-PARK and we'll help you out.

There isn't a listed age recommendation for a program I'm interested in.

Many programs are open to all ages! If you need more information on what age range we'd recommend, give us a call or email us at info@lakecountyparks.com

I have another question!

We'd be happy to help! Email us at info@lakecountyparks.com or call us at 219-769-PARK for additional support.

APRIL

QUEST FOR CROAKERS

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Do you know about frogs and toads? Where do you think they live? Join us as we go on a quest for frogs and toads to celebrate the beginning of spring. Please dress for the weather, as trails will be wet this time of year. **ORP FREE** ▲

FIND FLOPSY

Saturday, April 11, 9 AM - 2 PM

It's time to get ready for the Spring Fling and the Buckley kids have lost their pet bunny, Flopsy. Will you help them to find it? Join this wild goose chase around the farm that concludes with a frenzy of fuzzy friends! **BH \$10/person** ★



I SPY YOUNG NATURALISTS

Every Other 2nd Monday April-October (4/13, 6/8, 8/10, 10/12) 9:30-11:30 AM

Foster that natural curiosity in your little one by venturing outdoors to 'spy' what's happening at Gibson Woods Nature Preserve. Each session will include story, craft, snack and plenty of outdoor exploration. **GW \$5/Child** ★

S'MORES STROLL

Friday, April 17, 7-8:30 PM

Let's work up an appetite on a stroll around Stoney, then enjoy a cozy evening around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and making s'mores while stargazing. Don't forget your blanket! **SR \$5** ★

TRAILS DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 25, 9-10 AM

Stop by the Oak Savannah Trailhead to walk or bike on Celebrate Trails Day! Spin to Win LCPRD Prizes, and enjoy a day outdoors! **ORP FREE**

BAT APPRECIATION HIKE

Sunday, April 26, 7:30-8:30 PM

In honor of International Bat Appreciation Day, we will take a casual stroll to look for bats, as it's time for migration from their hibernation spots. **GW \$2** ★

MAY

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 2, 9 AM - 3 PM

Over 100 species of flowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs; including prairie, wetland, shade and woodland. For a complete list of plants, visit Wild Ones website. Arrive early for best selection. **LE**

SUNFLOWER SUNDAY

Sunday, May 10, 10 AM - 4 PM

We can't think of a sweeter way to spend Mother's Day then at Deep River planting sunflowers and sipping on a sarsaparilla float! **DR**



40TH ANNIVERSARY VOYAGUER RENDEZVOUS

Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17 10 AM - 4 PM

Look back into early 18th century when canoe men would travel down the mighty Kankakee river from Canada to trade goods with the native inhabitants. A real part of Indiana history come to life! Come see the encampments, talk to reenactors, and hear the fife and drums. Fun for all ages. Kids games and activities are included. **GKM \$5, 5 & Under Free**

SEASONS ON THE FARM

Spring: Sheep Shearing

Sunday, May 17, Noon - 4 PM

Join us for the sheep annual haircuts, and learn about how the wool is processed and turned into a product that is used for making clothing and other useful materials. **BH FREE**

GRINDERS HOME OPENER

Sunday, May 17, 2 PM

Experience vintage baseball entertainment against a stunning vista - a perfect family affair! Enjoy the timeless game, soak in the scenery, and don't miss out on an ice-cold sarsaparilla for the complete nostalgic treat! **DR FREE**

EVENING BAT HIKE

Monday, May 18, 8 - 9 PM

Let's enjoy an evening hike in the woods looking for bats and learning facts about them. **GW \$2** ▲ ★

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 25, 2:30 PM

Join us for a heartfelt Memorial Service to honor some of our nation's bravest heroes. Experience beautiful music, thoughtful speakers, and humble prayers as we reflect on their sacrifices. **SR FREE**

JUNE

STORYTIME AT BUCKLEY

Mondays in June, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Meet in the main barn every Monday in June. We will read some stories about some of our favorite barnyard animals. After the stories, we will meet the animals we read about! Games, activities, and often a coffee food truck will also be available in the barnyard. **BH FREE**

MINI MILL MAKERS

Thursdays in June & July, 10:30-11:30 AM

Young minds, aged 9 and under, take charge of their STEM learning journey at the park. Our program encourages hands-on exploration and self-paced discovery, making every moment a chance to learn, play, and grow. **BH \$5/Child ★**

HOPE LIGHTS THE WAY

Friday, June 12, Timed Evening Tours

Experience history by lantern light, as defining moments and powerful speeches come to life. This intimate evening invites reflection, connection, and a renewed sense of the courage and hope that has shaped our nation. **BH \$10**

LAKE COUNTY parks & rec Celebrate the Semiquincentennial

HISTORY SPEAKS America 250

History comes alive as reenactors from across 250 years gather to share stories, demonstrations, and unforgettable moments from America's past. Perfect for curious kids, lifelong learners, and history fans of all ages.

BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD
3606 Belshaw Lowell, IN

JUNE 13
10 AM - 3 PM

FREE
Thanks to the generous support of XXX

HOPE LIGHTS THE WAY
June 12
\$10/person lakecountyparks.com/register

HISTORY SPEAKS: AMERICA 250

Saturday, June 13, 10 AM - 3 PM

The Lake County Parks joins forces again with the Crown Point Community Library to recreate a day full of history and mystery. Meet with reenactors, talk with local authors, watch stories come to life, grab a bite from a food truck and experience life during throughout America's 250 years at your picturesque neighborhood park. Designed with all ages in mind. **BH FREE**

RIVER FUN

Wednesday, June 17, 10-11 AM

How deep is Deep River? Which way does it go? What lives in the river? How fast does it flow? Find out these answers and more! This program requires adult participation in building and releasing boats into Deep River. Plan to get wet! **DR FREE ▲**

POND EXPLORATION

Friday, June 19, 9:30 - 11 AM

Ever wonder what lives underwater in a pond besides fish? Join us as we collect and look at some of the smaller and spectacular species of the watery world. Wear shoes/clothes you do not mind getting dirty/wet. **ORP FREE ▲**

SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNSET HIKE

Sunday June 21, 7:45 - 9 PM

Enjoy the longest day of the year and the start of astronomical summer with a guided hike at Gibson Woods. **GW \$2 ★**

POP UP PLAYDATES

Wednesdays this Summer!

Pop-Up Park Playdates are all about keeping it low-key and low-stress. Come solo or with friends, play alongside your little one, or kick back and let them make new buddies on their own. We'll be there starting at 10AM, but you're welcome to come early, stay late, or just pop in when it works for you!

June 24 - Teddy Bear Picnic

Bring your favorite stuffy and join us for a cozy BYO picnic. **DR**

July 1 - Bubbles

Catch, pop, and play with bubbles & enjoy the playground! **LL**

July 8 - Nature Scavenger Hunt

Explore the park & discover hidden treasures. **ORP**

July 15 - Craft Together

Get creative with hands-on crafts made for little imaginations. **SR**

July 22 - Mini Field Day

Run, jump, and laugh with classic field day games. **LE**

July 29 - Story Yoga

Stretch, move, and imagine with a playful yoga inspired by your favorite stories **BML**

JULY

RED WHITE & VIEW

Saturday, July 4, Sunset - 10:30 PM

Pack a blanket, some snacks & bug spray to join your neighbors for a relaxed Fourth of July evening at Oak Ridge Prairie's hilltop. Relax at this prime viewing spot for a quieter view of the surrounding area's firework displays. The park will stay open late so you can soak in the sights and sounds of Independence Day from one of the best views around. **ORP**

BUCKLEY AT NIGHT

Tuesdays in July starting July 7 at 8 PM

Curious about the sounds of the farm at night and the true darkness without artificial light? Join park staff as you're safely guided through the park after dark, unraveling the mysteries of nocturnal farm life. **BH \$5 ▲ ★**

INSECTIVAL

Saturday, July 11, 9 AM - 2 PM

At INSECTIVAL, visitors of all ages are invited to explore the intricate world of bugs through a variety of interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and educational presentations. From the tiniest ants to the most colorful butterflies, there's something for everyone to discover! **ORP FREE (parking fee applies)**

SEASONS ON THE FARM:

MIDSUMMER EVENING

Wednesday, July 17, 4 PM to 8 PM

Join us for a summer evening on the farm as we enjoy the calm between planting and harvest. Explore the open buildings, visit the animals, and learn how farm families spent their midsummer days resting, visiting with neighbors, and making the most of the long, warm evenings. Experience the simple pleasures of summer on the homestead. **BH**

BUG DETECTIVES

Thursday, July 23, 10-11 AM

Investigate the world of the many-legged creatures that call Gibson Woods home through hands-on activities as we dig into the wiggly, winged and wonderful bug world. **GW FREE**

KITES OVER KID BIZ

Sunday, July 26, 4-7 PM • Market at 5 PM

Kites Over Kid Biz brings together Lake County's youngest entrepreneurs and an evening of sky-high fun. Come support kid-run businesses, shop one-of-a-kind goods created and sold by children ages 15 and under, and enjoy a kite flying display overhead! All are welcome to shop and enjoy the kite spectacular! Have an interested kid-vendor? See page 15 for registration details. **SR FREE**

LOCATIONS

- BB** Bellaboo's
- BH** Buckley Homestead
- CAC** Calumet Astronomy Center
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- LL** Lemon Lake
- ORP** Oak Ridge Prairie

- SR** Stoney Run
- TR** Three Rivers
- TCBQ** Turkey Creek Banquets

REGISTRATION

- ▲ Call 219-844-3188
- ★ Online at lakecountyparks.com
- ★ Online at mybellaboos.com
- ▲ Call 219-769-PARK
- At-the-Door Admission Also Available

AUGUST

GRINDERS VS. SHRINERS

Sunday, August 2, 2 PM

Experience vintage baseball entertainment against a stunning vista at our Annual Benefit Match for Shriners Children's Hospital - a perfect family affair! Enjoy the timeless game, soak in the scenery, and don't miss out on an ice-cold sarsaparilla for the complete nostalgic treat! **DR FREE**

METEORS & S'MORES

Saturday, August 15, 7-8:30 PM

The annual Perseids are one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. Make a stop at the Buckley Homestead Visitor Center area to sit by the campfire and enjoy a summer treat before or after going over to the Conway Observatory to view this special summer sky event. **BH \$5 ★**

BIRD MIGRATION HIKES

Wednesdays, August 19 - Early October 9:30-11 AM

Changing of the seasons is a great time to see a variety of migrating bird species including thrushes, warblers, sparrows and vireos. Walk with a park naturalist to see who is visiting the Woods. **GW ▲**

TICKET SALES FOR LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

Saturday, August 22, Sale starts at 9 AM

BACK AGAIN AT BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD! Tickets for the beloved Legend of Sleepy Hollow go on sale at 9 AM. We expect tickets to sell out, so come early and pack a chair to watch the sunrise at the farm! **BH \$12/ticket, limit 12 per person**



FISHING DERBY

Saturday, August 22, 1 PM

Cast a line at our free Fishing Derby, presented in partnership with Brown Faces, Green Spaces! This family-friendly event welcomes anglers of all ages and experience to enjoy a fun day outdoors. Participants will learn basic fishing skills, connect with nature, and celebrate community while promoting access, inclusion, and environmental stewardship. All are welcome, gear provided (or, byo!) - no experience required! **ORP**

LAUNDRY DAY ON THE FARM

Thursday, August 27, 9 AM - Noon

Coming to the farm and do laundry the old fashion way. Hands on demonstration is fun for all ages. **BH FREE**

PARTY IN THE PARK

Friday, August 28, 4-6 PM

Come join us for a Party in the Park! Enjoy a day filled with fun, sweet treats, and lots of friends. Prepare for a bubblicious foam party and let the kids play to their heart's content. It's the perfect way to relax, laugh, and make memories at Lemon Lake's super cool playground. Don't miss the fun! **LL**

150 YEARS AT THE MILL: AN OLD-FASHIONED ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, August 30, 2-4 PM

Gather at Wood's Historic Grist Mill for an old-fashioned ice cream social celebrating generations of Lake County history. Enjoy live folk music, vintage games, and a walk through the historic mill, where photo displays highlight its story and restoration. This free community celebration honors both the mill's 150th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of its restoration. Ice cream sundaes and sarsaparilla floats available for purchase.



SEPTEMBER



SLEEPY HOLLOW

Friday & Saturday, September 11, 12, 18, & 19 - Select Evening Times

Advance tickets are required for this classic Lake County Parks

Event. The in-person sale happens (8/22) at Buckley Homestead. If you have tickets, get ready to enjoy a dreamy evening as you are transported to the past! Ichabod Crane is on the move, can keep your head on long enough to find him? **BH**

HAYRIDE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 12, 6-8 PM

Kick off hayride season with a relaxed evening at the park. Enjoy a classic fall hayride without the need for a private rental or big plans. Choose a time, take a ride, and soak in the sights of early fall. Easy, affordable and a great way to check a favorite tradition off your fall bucket list. **BML \$3**

There isn't a listed age recommendation for a program I'm interested in.

Many programs are open to all ages! If you need more information on what age range we'd recommend, give us a call or email us at info@lakecountyparks.com

What should I do if I'm having trouble registering online?

If lakecountyparks.com/register isn't working for you, you can always give us a call at 219-769-PARK and we'll help you out.

I have another question!

We'd be happy to help! Email us at info@lakecountyparks.com or call us at 219-769-PARK for additional support.

OCTOBER



FALL FEST

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4, 10 AM - 4 PM

Buckley Fall Fest returns with a full day of old-fashioned fall fun for all ages. Enjoy hands-on activities like candle dipping, live music and storytelling, hayrides through the farm, and visits from our favorite cowboys. With great food, local vendors, and plenty of space to wander, it's a celebration rooted in tradition with something new to discover every year. **BH \$5 (5 & Under FREE)**

HAYRIDE GHOST STORIES

Friday, October 9, 6-10 PM

Join us for an evening hayride through Oak Ridge Prairie as we share ghost stories rooted in the local folklore of Reeder Road in Griffith, IN. Known for its eerie atmosphere, Reeder Road has long been the subject of ghost sightings. *Disclaimer: Adult Content! **ORP \$7**

GNOME HOMES

Wednesday, October 14, 10 - 11:30 AM

There's gnome place like home in the woods. Participants will build a house in the woods for gnomes and nature's friends to visit. This unique activity encourages kids to go outside and connect with the natural world, while nurturing care and respect for the environment. Please dress for the weather. **SR \$2/child ▲ ★**



WOODLAND TEA PARTY

Friday, October 16, 2-3 PM or 4-5 PM

A Woodland Tea Party with Story Time invites children to enjoy a whimsical tea party in a magical park setting. Participants (Kids and Adults alike!) will sip herbal tea and enjoy light snacks at decorated tables. The event includes a captivating story time session featuring enchanting tales of woodland creatures. **DR \$5/person ★ ▲**

FAQs

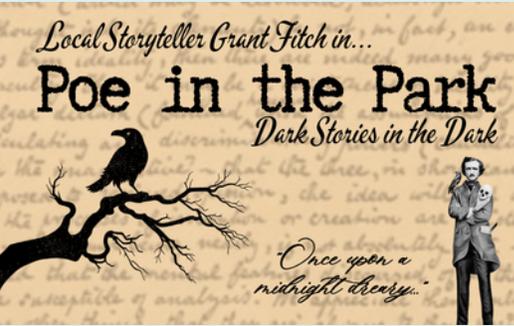
Are there more programs than these?

Yes! Find more programs at lakecountyparks.com/calendar

CSRI HAYRIDE

Sunday, October 18, Noon - 2:30 PM

A specially equipped haywagon for our special needs community. Enjoy a quiet ride and some light refreshments and games before or after your ride. **ORP \$3/person** ★



POE IN THE PARK: DARK STORIES IN THE DARK

Friday, October 23, 6-8 PM

Join storyteller Grant Fitch for an unforgettable evening in the forest. Shadows & firelight set the stage for chilling tales from Edgar Allan Poe. Surrounded by nature's eerie ambiance, you'll experience the master of macabre like never before. **LL \$5** ★

THE CORNMEAL EXPERIENCE

Sunday, October 25, 10 AM - 4 PM

Come soak in the colors of fall at Deep River County Park. Learn how corn was traditionally ground into cornmeal, explore the mill and surrounding grounds, and enjoy simple, hands-on activities inspired by historic fall food traditions. It's a perfect way to slow down, enjoy the season, and experience the park at its most beautiful. **DR FREE**

CAMPFIRE CHILLERS

Friday, October 30, 6:30-8:30 PM

Presented by the Northwest Indiana Storytellers Guild. Visit the park for spooky tales around the campfire! **DR FREE**

NOVEMBER

PUMPKIN SMASH 'N ROLL

Sunday, November 1, 2-4 PM

Give your pumpkins one last hurrah! Bring your leftover jack-o'-lanterns to Oak Ridge Prairie and roll, toss, or smash them down the sled hill just for fun. We'll have a few fresh pumpkins on hand too for this low-key, laugh-a-lot way to close out Halloween weekend.

LOCATIONS

- BB** Bellaboo's
- BH** Buckley Homestead
- CAC** Calumet Astronomy Center
- DR** Deep River - Mill Entrance

- GW** Gibson Woods
- LE** Lake Etta
- LL** Lemon Lake
- ORP** Oak Ridge Prairie

- SR** Stoney Run
- TR** Three Rivers
- TCBQ** Turkey Creek Banquets

SEASONS ON THE FARM

FALL: PREPPING FOR WINTER

Saturday, November 7, 1-5 PM

Join us as we wrap up our year and prepare for winter. All buildings will be open as we explore historical aspects of getting ready for winter. Stop in and see our animals one last time before we move them into their winter homes. **BH FREE**

VETERANS CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 7, 10:30 AM

All are welcome to meet at Stoney Run Park to honor Veterans with this special service. This short, important and impactful service will take place at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We hope you sincerely enjoy the heartfelt speakers and beautiful music. **SR FREE**



WINTER SEED SOWING BASICS

Saturday, November 14, 10 AM - 12 PM

Join us as Dolly Foster, local native plant expert, goes over the basics of this easy and fun way to start your native plant gardens for the upcoming year. **GW** ▲

OWL PROWL

Saturday, November 21, 5-6:15 PM

Explore the woods with a naturalist while listening and calling for owls. Who? Who? Who wants to join us? **BML \$2** ★

OPT OUTSIDE

Friday, November 27, 2026

Skip the shopping and spend the day exploring instead! Get out to any of your Lake County Parks for a walk in the woods, along the riverside, or through the prairies. Time spent outdoors is never wasted!

SKATE THE PLAZA

Friday, November 27

Skate the Plaza at Deep River Waterpark! Ice skating officially opens the Friday after Thanksgiving (weather permitting) so check deepriverwaterpark.com for hours and conditions and come skate with us! **DRWP**

DECEMBER

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT THE MILL

Friday, December 4, Select Evening Times
Stroll through the lit luminary cobblestone streets alive with campfires, Christmas Carols and Hot Cocoa. Enjoy the classic tale come to life in the mill with a stop to craft and shop before you go. Enjoy a magical Christmas evening at Deep River County Park. **DR \$10** ★



CHRISTMAS AT THE MILL

Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6, 10-4

The Mill will be decorated. Chestnuts will be roasting on an open fire. The general store will be open donning locally made or sourced treats and goods. Deep River memorabilia and more! **DR FREE**

SEASONS ON THE FARM

WINTER: CHRISTMAS AT BUCKLEY

Saturday, December 5, 12-3 PM

Buckley Homestead is happy to be a part of the Lowell Winterfest! Join us to get the homestead ready for the holidays. Event changes subject to winter weather conditions. Check site for details. **BH FREE**

WINTER SOLSTICE SUNSET HIKE

Sunday, December 20, 4-5 PM

Enjoy the shortest day of the year and the start of calendar winter with a guided hike. Please dress for the weather. **GW \$2** ★

COOKIE BURNER HIKE

Tuesday, December 29, 10:30 - Noon

Walk off those holiday sweets in this post holiday extra cardo hike around the park! **LL FREE** ▲

REGISTRATION

- ▲ Call 219-844-3188
- ★ Online at lakecountyparks.com
- ★ Online at mybellaboos.com
- ▲ Call 219-769-PARK
- At-the-Door Admission Also Available

FREE FUN FOR ALL

Don't miss these FREE programs happening in 2026. Enjoy, and if you're able, donations help us keep these events free!

GO BACK WITH BUCKLEY

SEASONS ON THE FARM

**SPRING
SHEEP SHEARING
MAY 17**

It's sheep shearing time! Watch the annual haircut and see how wool becomes usable material.

Experience the simple pleasures of summer on the homestead.

**SUMMER
MIDSUMMER NIGHT
JULY 17**

**FALL
PREPPING FOR WINTER
NOVEMBER 7**

Buildings will be open as we explore historical aspects of getting ready for winter.

Buckley Homestead is happy to be a part of the Lowell Winterfest! Join us to get the homestead ready for the holidays.

**WINTER
CHRISTMAS AT
BUCKLEY
DECEMBER 5**

STORYTIME

STORYTIME · MONDAYS IN JUNE · 9:30-11:30 AM
Hear a Story · Meet the Animals · Enjoy the Farm



DEEP RIVER COUNTY PARK WEEKEND OPEN HOUSES!

**Maple Syrup Days
March 7, 8, 14, 15**

- Tree Talks each Hour
- Meet the Voyageurs
- Tour the Sugar Shack
- Maple Syrup Samples
- Shopping!

**Experience Cornmeal
October 25**

- Explore the Mill
- Grind Corn
- Taste Homemade Cornbread
- Apple Butter

**Christmas at the Mill
December**

- Chestnuts over an Open Fire
- Holiday Photo Ops
- Stock up on Stocking Stuffers!

HONORING OUR HEROES



STONEY RUN COUNTY PARK

**MEMORIAL
DAY SERVICE
MONDAY, MAY 26
2:30 PM**

**VETERANS
CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 8
10:30 AM**



Seasons of Stewardship

with Lake County Parks

Join us for year-round programs that protect, restore, and celebrate our natural spaces.

January & February

January - Winter Tree Watch

Join us at Stoney Run County Park for a winter walk as we explore how to spot early signs of insect activity, disease, and stress in our trees.

February - Oak Ridge Prairie Clean Up

Pitch in this winter! With the park wide open, it's the perfect time to clear litter, tidy trails, and give the space some love. We'll even bring hot chocolate!

Spring

April - Weed Wranglers

Come out to Gibson Woods for a hands-on garlic mustard pull and learn how to identify this invasive plant using quick visual cues and its distinct scent.

May - Botany at Tolleston with DNR

Join naturalists for a guided walk through Tolleston's rare dune-and-swale landscape, learning seasonal plant ID and the role native species play in this remarkable habitat.

June - Litter & Lemonade

Join our Litter Crew at Three Rivers County Park to help keep the grounds clean and beautiful. Make a visible difference, and enjoy a refreshing cup of lemonade when we're done!

August & September

August - Wildflower Seed Workshop

Meet at Oak Ridge Prairie to collect wildflower seeds for local restoration projects, learn proper techniques, and take home a small portion with easy growing tips!

September - National Public Lands Day Cleanup

Join us at Lake Etta County Park for National Public Lands Day, a nationwide celebration dedicated to the care and stewardship of our public lands!

Winter

November - Fires & S'mores

Head to Oak Ridge Prairie and see how controlled fire keeps our landscapes healthy! If weather allows we'll watch a small burn in action, and then stick around afterward for s'mores!

December - Cut it Out! Invasive Brush Removal

Help protect native habitats at Grand Kankakee Marsh by joining us for an Invasive Brush Removal session!

Exact dates depend on weather and growing conditions. See something you like? Register online and we'll contact you once dates are set!

lakecountyparks.com/register



There are dozens of FREE Programs & Hikes all year long!

LAKECOUNTYPARKS.COM/CALENDAR

ALL ABOUT THE 'BOO



📍 2800 Colorado St.
 Lake Station, IN
 ☎️ 219-963-2070
 🌐 mybellaboos.com

Bellaboo's is a kid-sized world built for big imaginations. Inside and out, children can climb, build, pretend, dig, and discover in spaces designed just for them. Every visit offers room to explore at their own pace, with seasonal programs and special activities that keep things fresh for returning families.

Open Tuesday-Friday 10 AM - 3 PM, Weekends 10 AM - 4 PM
Schools Out Summer Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM
\$11 Per Person



BUILDING BLOCKS PARTY

Monday, December 29-Friday, January 2 10AM-3PM
 'Building Blocks' BLOCK Party is a collaboration with Purdue Extension, First Things First Porter County, and Lakeshore Public Media. come out this week and see how playtime is more than just fun—it's a foundation for lifelong learning. **BB Included with Admission**

UNIFICATION CELEBRATION

Monday, January 19, 10 AM - 3 PM
 Join us as we break down the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into bite-sized pieces for our youngest guests. Unify and celebrate both each other and the late, great, legend himself with stories, art, and cooking fun! **BB Regular Admission Bonus Play Day**

GROUNDHOGS DAY OF PLAY

Sunday, February 1, 10 AM - 3 PM 
 Kids can learn about and play with shadows through a day of groundhog fun. Don't miss out on the groundhog dance party, story time, and crafts stations. This day is sure to POP up as a delight each year! **BB Included with Admission**

LA LA LA LOVE FEST

Saturday, February 14, 10 AM - 4 PM 
 Cupid is back and you're invited to join them in the KITCHEN for a craft you can eat! What a SWEET way to spend the day! **BB Included w/ Admission**

PRESIDENT'S DAY ROCKSTAR RECESS

Monday, February 16, 10 AM - 3 PM 
 Nothing but Recess?...YES! Bellaboo's has plenty of space to let out those winter wiggles and make new friends. Spend your day off from school with a slam-jam day of rocking play! **BB Regular Admission Bonus Play Day**

DR. SEUSS DAY OF DISASTERS

Saturday, March 7, 10 AM - 3 PM 
 It'll be a tongue-twisted day of Seusserific Play. Bring a friend you can meddle in mischief with, your science hat for solving problems and your grown ups...so you can clean up really fast before they find out what you're up to! **BB Included w/ Admission**

LITTLE LEPRECHAUN LABS

Tuesday, March 17, 10 AM - 3 PM 
 A full day of Leprechaun play! Show up in your green, too and we'll share stories of leprechauns and other Irish folklore. Cooking science with shamrock treats and hunt will be happening too. Hope to see you! **BB Included w/ Admission**

PARTNERS IN PLAY



With over 300 days of play each year, we couldn't do it alone. Our partners help bring the magic all year long. Check our online and social calendars to see when they'll be here.

- Storytime with **Lake County Public Library** and **Crown Point Community Library**
- Enviromobile Visits from **Lake County Solid Waste Management**

- Music Maker & Shakers and Music & Movement classes with **Miss Cassie & JAHM**
- Animal Encounters with **Humane Indiana Wildlife**
- Urban Ag Kids with **Lake County Purdue Extension**
- Nature Education from other Lake County Parks like **Gibson Woods & Buckley Homestead**

SPRING BREAK UNDER THE BIG TOP

Weekdays, March 23-April 2

Step right up and enjoy circus-themed fun all week long with playful stations throughout the space and a daily noon feature that brings the spirit of the circus to life. With movement, games, songs, and surprises, it's a fun and festive way to spend spring break - Bellaboo's style. **BB Included w/ Admission**

EGGS MARKS THE SPOT a pirate treasure hunt

EGGS MARKS THE SPOT

Friday, April 3, 10 AM - 3 PM

Ahoy, mateys! Drop anchor at Bellaboo's for a pirate-themed egg hunt filled with adventure and fun. The main egg hunt sets sail at noon, with pirate play and themed activities happening throughout the day. Dress like a pirate if you wish and hunt for egg treasures worthy of Captain Bellaboo's crew.. **BB \$**

PRINCESS PLAYDATE AT THE 'BOO

Saturday, May 9, 10 AM - 3 PM

Kid-Friendly, "Fancy-Like" Family Fun! Meet REAL Princesses and get your glam on at Bellaboo's Royal Rager! Combine sparkle and smarts with a DIY party putty class and find out the secret to becoming a real royalty. *Royal attire is recommended. **BB Included w/ Admission**

WILD WEDNESDAYS WITH HUMANE INDIANA

Wednesdays throughout the Summer

Rehabilitated local animal friends (and their fantastic human ambassadors!) visit with the families at Bellaboo's. Kids get to see, learn, and sometimes even touch a variety of animals and enjoy each of their unique stories. Bird releases and other adventures abound, every Wednesday - all summer long! **BB Included w/ Admission**

BUBBLES AT THE 'BOO

Thursdays in June, Middy

Get ready for a bubbly good time at Bellaboo's! Kids can play, experiment, and delight in bubbles big and small during this hands-on bubble celebration. Whether you're watching them float or trying to make your own, there's plenty of pop-happy fun to go around.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPERHERO SUPERFUN BASH

Friday, August 7, 10 AM - 4 PM

Dress up as your favorite superhero and join us for an action-packed day filled with exciting activities, creative games, and lots of fun. Explore interactive SUPER exhibits, unleash your imagination in the garden, and enjoy special superhero-themed adventures. It's the ultimate way to kick off the school year with a blast! **BB**

BELLABOO'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Tuesday, September 15, 10 AM - 3 PM

Get ready to get batty at Bellaboo's 17th Birthday Party! Join us for a bat-tacular celebration with fun party crafts, exciting games, and delicious treats for everyone to enjoy. **BB Included w/ Admission**

FALL HARVEST FUN

All October Long

Paint pumpkins, find flowers, sort gourds, and become batty with weekly fall festivities sponsored by Harvest Tyme Family Farm! Indoor and outdoor harvest play options of plenty! *while supplies last **BB Included w/ Admission**

BOO AT THE 'BOO

Saturday, October 31, 10 AM - 3 PM

A Not-So-Spooky day of fun, friends, and frights. featuring: Kooky Kid's Cooking, Dance-maniacs, and Ghou! School. Costumes are encouraged for added festiveness. **BB Included w/ Admission**

TOUCH A TURKEY

Friday, November 20, Middy

Buckley's farmers have caught themselves a wild turkey and are bringing their big bird to the Boo for some added turkey day hands-on education. Gobble in and check it out! **BB**

SANTA SATURDAYS

Saturdays in December (12/5, 12/12, 12/19)

Santa's back! The sweetest Santa along the South Shore is available on Saturdays in December for DIY photos at noon. Enjoy stories with Santa before he leaves at 3pm. Letters to Santa and holiday crafts, too. **BB Santa Visits 12-3 Included w/ Admission**

BELLABRATION

Thursday, December 31, 10 AM - 3 PM

Ring in the New Year at NOON! This afternoon New Year's Eve Party is designed to check all the New Year's Eve boxes, kid-style! You don't want to miss the "Big Bubble Drop" at noon! Time-capsules, toasts & fun galore. Who could ask for more! **BB Regular Admission Prices**

Camp Bellaboo!

Mondays
9 AM - 3 PM

Sign up now for the
BEST. SUMMER. EVER!

Camp Bellaboo is where summer imagination runs wild. Each week brings a new themed adventure filled with hands-on play, creative challenges, movement, and discovery. Campers enjoy exclusive access to Bellaboo's 23,000-square-foot indoor play space plus four acres of outdoor gardens, giving them room to build, explore, pretend, and play all day long. With caring staff and playful structure, Camp Bellaboo turns Mondays into the highlight of summer.

Camp Themes:

- June 15 - Superhero Training Camp
- June 22 - Galaxy Quest
- June 29 - Beach Bonanza
- July 6 - Heroes vs. Villians
- July 13 - Camp Gone Wild
- July 20 - Ahh! Real Monsters
- July 27 - Nature Nuts
- August 3 - Messy Minds

Registration Information:

Learn more and register online
at mybellaboos.com/camp

Extended Care Now Available!



Join Us for a Summer
Filled with Fun, Learning,
and Exploration!

Per Session
\$50

Full Camp
\$375



HOME SCHOOL DAYS

1st
Fridays

at Deep
River
County
Park

Homeschool Makers Lab

DEEP RIVER COUNTY PARK

10-11:15 AM | \$5 per child

Explore. Build. Discover.

- February 6 - Hearts in the Park
- March 6 - Maple Syrup Monkeys
- April 3 - Nest Sighting & Building
- May 1 - Wildflower Walkabout
- September 4 - Johnny Appleseed
- October 2 - Fall Harvest
- November 6 - Wild Turkey Chase

2nd
Fridays

at
Bellaboo's

Homeschool Fri-Yays

BELLABOO'S PLAY & DISCOVERY CENTER

🕒 9-11 AM | \$12 per child, \$9 per adult

Interactive learning, children's cooking, & a guided Wild Wonders program with a Lake County Parks Nature expert all matched to monthly themes! **Available Year-Round.**

3rd
Fridays
at Buckley
Homestead

Homesteading Homeschool

BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD COUNTY PARK

🕒 9:30-11:30 AM or 12:30-2:30 PM | \$10

Hands On. History. Farming

- March 20 - Kidding and Lambing
- April 17 - Planting on the Homestead
- June 19 - Herbs. Herbs. Herbs.
- July 17 - Putting the Home in Homestead
- August 21 - Sorghum: A Super Staple

4th
Fridays
with
rotating
locations

Homeschool Wandering Wild Wonders

🕒 1-2:15 PM | \$5

Nature. Investigate. Wonder.

- February 17 - Lemon Lake
- March 27 - Buckley Homestead
- April 24 - Lake Etta
- May 22 - Oak Ridge Prairie
- June 26 - Gibson Woods Nature Preserve
- July 24 - Grand Kankakee Marsh
- August 28 - Big Maple Lake
- September 25 - Three Rivers
- October 30 - Stoney Run

For program times & reservations, visit lakecountyparks.com/register



Field Trips

that inspire



Bellaboo's Play & Discovery Center

Great for: Pre-K to 2nd Grade

Themed Trips: Staff-led education - \$12/student

Exploration Trips: Full Facility Fun - \$10/student

Available year-round



Buckley Homestead

Great for: Elementary Students (K-5)

Hands-On Workshop: \$10/person

Available April-May or September-October



Deep River

Great for: Elementary Students (Pre-K-5)

Marvel of Maple Syrup or Cornmeal in the Making: \$10/person

Select weeks in March, April, & October

Mill Tours: \$5/person

Available May, September, & October



Gibson Woods

Wonders of a Wetland Workshop: \$5/person

Available April - June - Grades 2nd Grade +

Into the Woods Tour: \$2/person

Available year-round - Pre-K & Up

BOOK NOW

Bellaboo's Call us at 219-963-2070 or fill out the request form at MyBellaboos.com

Buckley & Deep River Call us at 219-769-7275 to book.

Gibson Woods Call us at 219-844-3188 to book.

Looking for something different? Have more questions? Reach out to info@lakecountyparks.com for information on trip options at other locations, shelter rentals, and anything else!

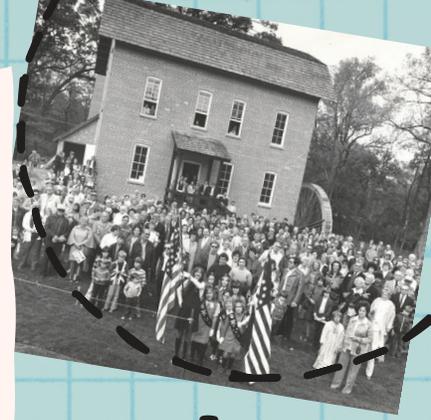
PEEK INTO THE PAST

Lake County Parks loves to celebrate historic moments from our past.

May 16 & 17 we'll explore how French fur traders met and traded with Indigenous people along the Kankakee River with the **40th year of Voyageur Rendezvous**.

Then celebrate America's Semiquincentennial at **History Speaks: America 250**, a free event on **June 13th**.

And join us as we dig into local history with the **150th anniversary of Wood's Historic Grist Mill** on **August 30th**.



Part history, part sport, all fun-- the **Deep River Grinders** aren't to be missed!

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Honoring Veterans from Every Era

Pause to reflect on the sacrifices made on **Memorial Day** with a moving service at Stoney Run County Park at

Then join us for a **Veterans Celebration** on **November 7 at 10:30 AM**, featuring music and special moments honoring those who have served.



UNIQUELY LAKE COUNTY PARKS

Tours you won't find anywhere else.

You've probably heard of **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** (tickets on sale **August 23**) but did you know our same team has developed and hosts 3 other toured events.

In **April** you can help the Buckley children find their lost bunny at **Find Flopsy**.

June 12 we'll celebrate major American moments with **Hope Lights the Way**.

Bundle up for fun on **December 4th** as we head up to Deep River to prepare for the holidays with **Twas the Night Before Christmas at the Mill**.

Tickets Available at LakeCountyParks.com/Register Sleepy Hollow tickets in person only on 8/23

PLAN FOR FUN

BRING THE KIDS

No one does kid events better. Dive into springtime fun at Buckley Homestead with **Meet the Babies** on **March 28 and 29**.

Hop, slither, or crawl over to Oak Ridge Prairie for **Insectival!** A full day celebrating not-so-creepy crawlers on **July 11**.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's **Kites over Kid Biz!** Shop local kid-trepeneurs and view spectacular kites at Stoney Run on **July 26**.

Ain't no party like a Lemon Lake party! **Party in the Park** brings the bubbles and so much more on **August 28**.

Fall into an enchanted wonderland at Deep River with a **Woodland Tea Party** on **October 16**.



2026 DEEP RIVER GRINDERS *Home Schedule*

Come see one of Lake County's favorite sports teams as the Deep River Grinders take you back to 1858 for a game of vintage baseball! Pack a picnic blanket or some lawn chairs and grab an ice-cold sarsaparilla as you enjoy beautiful Deep River County Park & a sure-to-be entertaining game of classic baseball.

Sunday, May 17 at 2 PM

Home Opener vs. Blue Island Brewmasters

Sunday, May 31 at 2 PM

Home vs. Flossmoor Whistlestoppers

Sunday, July 12 at 2 PM

Home vs. Springfield Long Nine

Sunday, July 19 at 2 PM

Home vs. Dayton Clodbusters

Sunday, August 2 at 2 PM

Shriners Benefit Game at Home

Sunday, August 16 at 2 PM

Home vs. Lemont Quarrymen

Sunday, August 23 at 2 PM

Home vs. Vermillion County Voles

Sunday, September 12 at 2 PM

Home vs. Chicago Salmon

Sunday, October 4 at 2 PM

Home vs. Rock Spring Ground Squirrels

All home games are held at Grinder Field located at the historic entrance of Deep River County Park. For the full schedule, including away games, visit lakecountyparks.com/grinders

Donations Welcomed

CAN'T MISS CLASSICS

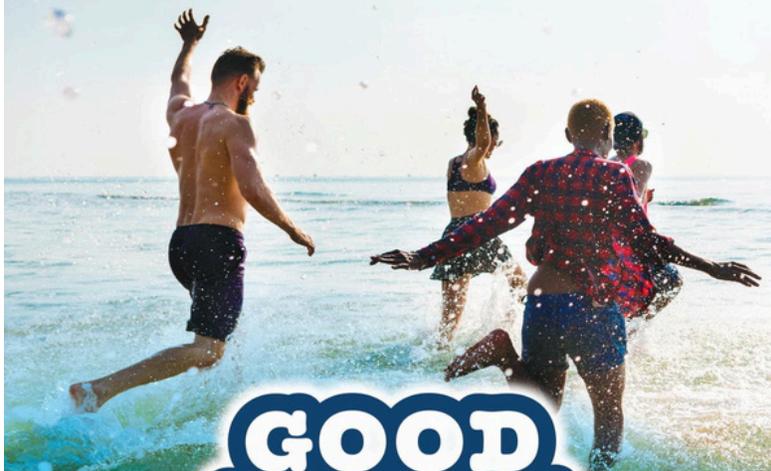
For decades people have formed traditions around these iconic Lake County Parks staples.

Tap into spring at **Maple Syrup Time** as we celebrate the sweet season with tree tapping, historic demonstrations, and plenty of syrupy treats at Deep River on **March 7, 8, 14 & 15**.

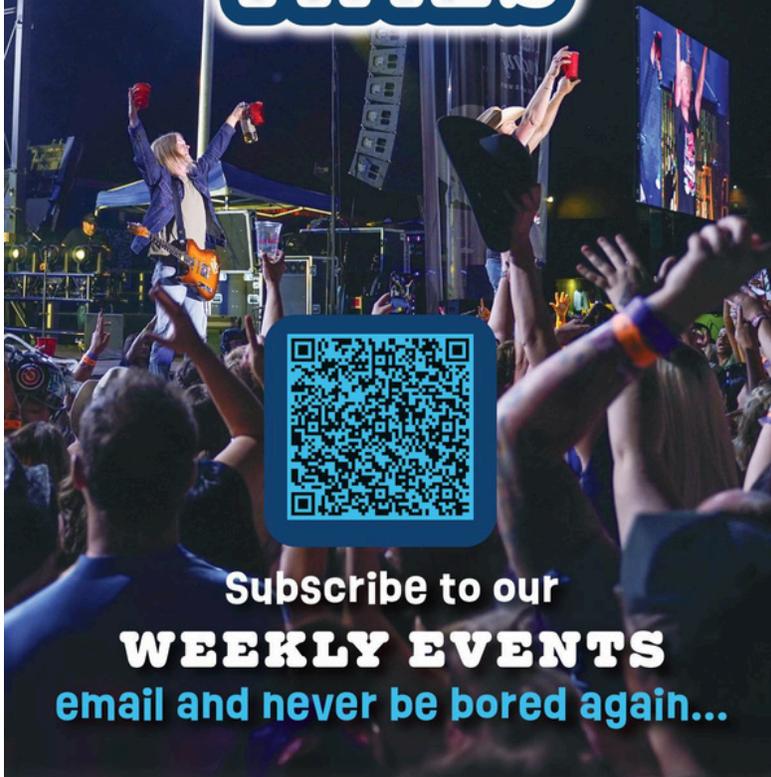
Then welcome fall in the best way possible at **Fall Fest**, a beloved autumn celebration filled with crafts, food, music, and seasonal fun at Buckley Homestead **October 3 & 4**.

Follow the
GOOD TIMES
all year long!

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*Lake County Park & Recreation
Attn: Human Resources
8411 E. Lincoln Hwy
Crown Point, IN 46307*

*The National Park Service
Attn: Equal Opportunity Program
Hwy P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127*