

Opportunities for Giving in State Parks and Reservoirs

You can support the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs with a gift of your time, money or materials.

Give Your Time

Volunteer

There are many opportunities for helping out. We welcome volunteers who can work regularly as interpretive center hosts/greeters, animal caregivers (cleaning/feeding) or field volunteers completing resource inventory/identification. Other regular volunteers can serve as technicians in computer data entry, monitors of bluebird boxes, trail workers through our adopt-a-trail program (some properties), gardeners for landscaping design/maintenance and campground hosts. One time projects may include trail work, lake cleanups or other litter pickup or program presentation in areas of specific skills. Our volunteer brochure provides more information. Each property has a volunteer coordinator who handles volunteer applications and schedules work; contact the property nearest you to become a volunteer.

Get Involved with a Friends Group

Five of our properties have friends groups who support property projects and programs. Indiana Dunes State Park, Spring Mill State Park, Hardy Lake, Falls of the Ohio State Park, Turkey Run/Shades State Parks and Brown County State Park all benefit from the time, money and other support provided by these groups. Friends groups must have officers, bylaws, insurance and must obtain non-profit status from the IRS. Membership fees, set by the board (officers) fund events, a newsletter and property projects. The intent of a friends group is to support the mission, policies and programs of the site; friends groups are not established to guide or set policy/rules for the property. If you would like more information about organizing a friends group for your favorite property, contact the Chief Interpreter at 317-232-4143 or talk with the property manager at that site.

Give Materials

Each full time interpreter maintains a “wish list” of supplies that are needed for programs and exhibits. These supplies may range from birdseed to laptop computers! Check with your favorite property to see how you can help.

Give Financially

Bluebird Boxes

Each property has “bluebird boxes” where you can place cash donations while you are on site that support the interpretive services or other projects at that individual property.

Division Donation Accounts

You can contribute to the support of a specific property or a specific program at a property (for example, the interpretive services or the resource management program). You can also contribute to the support of the entire division, the Interpretive Services statewide or to the support of arts (music, drama, etc) in parks and reservoirs. Contributions can be sent to Chief Interpreter, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, 402 W. Washington, Room W298. Designate your favorite property or project/program if appropriate. Contributions are tax deductible and acknowledgement can be provided if requested. Call 317-232-4124 for more information.

Natural Resources Foundation

You can establish or contribute to an account for a specific property or project through the Natural Resources Foundation. The Natural Resources Foundation provides the perfect opportunity for larger gifts in the form of memorials or planned giving. Contact the Natural Resources Foundation Director at 317-232-1002.

For information about volunteers or contributions, contact:

Ginger Murphy, Chief Interpreter
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
402 W. Washington Room W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-4124
E-mail: gmurphy@dnr.state.in.us

DNR

Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Gifts of Action: How People Helped Last Year

This is by no means a complete list of volunteer projects or gifts of materials and funds, but it can give you a sense of how your fellow Hoosiers are supporting our parks and reservoirs in ways both large and small How can *you* assist?

- A couple volunteers 500 hours annually at Brookville/Whitewater to erect/monitor bluebird boxes.
- A volunteer coordinates special programs (such as musical presentations) at Brown County State Park.
- Volunteers present music in our parks and reservoirs as a part of the P.A.R.K.S. program.
- Tri Kappa contributes \$200 annually to the state parks and reservoirs arts program.
- Scout groups adopt trails in the adopt-a-trail program in place at Salamonie, Mississinewa and J.Edward Roush Lakes (northern Indiana).
- Individuals donate \$1, \$5, \$10 or more to bluebird boxes in Interpretive Centers at our parks and reservoirs.
- Local businesses donate worms, minnows and other bait for fishing derbies.
- A volunteer completes a variety of resource management projects at Potato Creek State Park.
- A family of four donates \$250 to the Interpretive Services at Raccoon for program supplies.
- Participants at the annual Autumn Camping Weekend at Mississinewa Reservoir donate (usually a total of around \$1000) to help purchase supplies for the event.
- A volunteer writes grant proposals for the Friends of Spring Mill State Park.
- A volunteer assists with webpage design at Falls of the Ohio State Park.
- A regular visitor contributes birdseed at Pokagon State Park.
- A volunteer at Mounds State Park is documenting plants and wildlife through photographs.
- Volunteers at Spring Mill State Park help to staff the Pioneer Village during a variety of events throughout the season.
- Campground hosts monitor restrooms, pass out program schedules, assist with fee collection and answer a variety of camper questions at many properties.
- An individual contributed \$60,000 as a memorial for a project at Brown County State Park.
- Six garden clubs maintain the gardens around the interpretive center at Falls of the Ohio.
- The Friends of Brown County State Park developed a trail at Brown County and supported clean-up efforts at Monroe Reservoir's Interpretive Center after severe flooding.
- Three Rivers Fly-Fishing Club hosted a Rock Creek Clean up at J. Edward Roush (Huntington) Reservoir.
- An anonymous donor contributed \$45,000 in stock to the Pokagon State Park Nature Center to establish an endowment in the local Steuben County Community Foundation.
- A volunteer staffs the shooting range at Brookville/Whitewater Complex.
- The Hassmer Trust, established in the 1930's by an individual who enjoyed and used Versailles State Park, supports the property as an endowment.
- A father contributed \$5,000 to the Natural Resources Foundation to establish an account as a memorial to his son that will fund interpretive signs for trails at Turkey Run State Park.
- An individual has named the Interpretive Services for the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs in her will.
- Local businesses and individuals sponsored the Monroe Eagle Watch Weekend in February to the tune of \$7,600.
- Bethlehem Steel constructed an observatory that will eventually be installed at Indiana Dunes State Park. They also funded partial purchase of the telescope.
- A student is volunteering to raise funds from classmates to provide an owl mount for the interpretive center at Monroe Reservoir.
- An individual contributed \$25,000 towards the purchase and restoration of a cabin for the Clark State Historic Site, managed by Falls of the Ohio State Park.
- Property staff seek and receive grants for resource management projects from organizations such as NIPSCO, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Society, The Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, etc. These grants range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.
- The Friends of Spring Mill contributed \$7,500 to support a Dulcimer Festival at the park.
- Volunteers at Patoka Reservoir provide music during two weekends at the Art and Music Festival.
- The Friends of Indiana Dunes purchased a copier and telescope base for Indiana Dunes State Park. They also provide volunteers and funding for the Kid's Fall Funfest and the Indiana Storyteller's Festival.
- Friends of Brown County State Park and Friends of Indiana Dunes host annual plant sales to raise funds for property projects.
- Astronomical Societies in Louisville, Fort Wayne, Northwest Indiana and Bedford provide programming at a number of properties.
- Archaeology staff and students at Ball State University provide valuable research at Mounds State Park.
- Students from a graduate class at Indiana University provide plant/animal inventories and research at Brown County State Park.
- A \$10,000 grant received by Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI) provides geology research at Fort Harrison State Park.
- Volunteers staff the children's activity area at Falls of the Ohio State Park, which was funded by the donation of \$60,000 in stock by a local individual.
- Volunteers constructed a long-distance hiking trail at Brookville/Whitewater.
- Over 3600 volunteers statewide contributed a total of 44,611 hours of service at state parks and reservoirs in 2001.