

## THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

### SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park (See No. 2). Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either live or dead) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to build the natural humus.
- 2) All firearms, BB guns, air guns, bows and arrows, CO<sub>2</sub> guns or spear guns must be unloaded, or unstrung and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle when using campgrounds in the Department of Natural Resources.
- 3) Dogs and cats must be kept on leash while in the Park.
- 4) There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department.
- 5) Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- 6) Fires shall be built only in places provided. Visitors must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- 7) Speed limit is 20 MPH throughout the park. Park only in designated areas.
- 8) Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department.
- 9) Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water supply is tested regularly for purity.
- 10) Report Lost or Found articles to the Property Manager.

### THE INTELLIGENT USE OF LEISURE TIME

This trail map is given to you with the compliments of the state of Indiana through the Department of Natural Resources in the hope that it will direct your attention to the primary purpose for which the State Park system has been established. These recreational areas are parts of 'original America,' preserving for posterity typical primitive landscapes of scenic grandeur and rugged beauty. Along the quiet trails through these reservations, it is to be expected that the average citizen will find release from the tension of their overcrowded daily existence; that the contact with nature will refocus with a clearer lens their perspective on life's values and that they may here take counsel with themselves to the end that their strength and confidence are renewed.

4-87

## McCORMICK'S CREEK

### STATE PARK

Route 5, Box 72  
Spencer, Indiana 47460

## TRAIL MAP

Established 1916 1,833 Acres  
On Indiana 46, near Spencer  
(812) 829-2235



Long before pioneers entered the area now known as McCormick's Creek, the Miami Indians roamed the land. The Indians had camps along the banks of the White River to the north and south, but what is now state park land was far too rugged, filled with canyons and ravines, to invite settlement. Instead, it became a hunting ground, offering deer, squirrel, grouse and fish from its deep woods and clear streams. It wasn't until 1816 that the first settler laid claim to the area, when John McCormick moved from West Virginia and homesteaded nearly one hundred acres along the canyon by the waterfall. In those days it was common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, and thus McCormick's Creek received its name.

Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed their livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills and gristmills on the creek, although the water level and force was never great enough to make the ventures profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran into problems trying to get the cut rock across the river to the railroad line on the other side.

The turning point in the McCormick's Creek history came in 1888 when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkwalter, a physician who was interested in the scenic and restful qualities of the site. Dr. Denkwalter felt the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs would be the perfect location to build a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy and the weary to 'get away from it all' and recuperate. The original sanitarium built on the present-day Canyon Inn site, was a white-sided structure with long porches on every side. It offered guests plenty of access to the

loveliness of the well-landscaped grounds where Denkewalter delighted in planting a variety of trees and shrubs. Meanwhile, local residents continued to picnic and hike along the canyon, making the spot a favorite of everyone for rest and relaxation.

With the death of Dr. Denkewalter in 1914, his estate went up for sale at a land auction. Both Owen County and the State of Indiana were interested in maintaining McCormick's Creek in its park-like setting, and so the land was purchased. McCormick's Creek State Park was dedicated as Indiana's first state park on July 4, 1916, as part of the state's centennial celebration.

Canyon Inn opened its doors in the old sanitarium building. A few years later in the early 1920's, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Subsequent changes have brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the Inn today still rests on the original foundations of the Denkewalter sanitarium.

Originally a little over 350 acres in size, McCormick's Creek State Park has grown to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farms and homesteads as they come up for sale. Much of the park's building improvements came in the 1930's when the CCC (Civil Conservation Corps) was in the park. The CCC men constructed most of the shelter houses, the old stone bridge, and the firetower. Another surge of development came in the early 1970's when the present campgrounds, nature center and swimming pool were added. Today the park is a delightful combination of history set in up-to-date modern surroundings.



## DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1) Begins at Trailside Shelter, then winds down to the creek and back up to the family cabins. Involves some steep hills.
- 2) Follows the canyon's edge. Goes past the old statehouse quarry. Steep climbs in and out of the canyon.
- 3) Begins at falls and follows creek downstream. Good for spring wildflowers.
- 4) Hike to firetower, then through picturesque ravine.
- 5) Begins at Canyon Inn, crosses canyon and creek, and goes through beech-maple woods to Wolf Cave. Crosses Litten Creek several times.
- 6) Circles from primitive campground to 'A' loop campground. Through an outstanding beech forest.
- 7) Trail goes down to the White River and past giant sycamore trees.
- 8) Shortcut between campgrounds and nature center and swimming pool.

**RECREATION CENTER** — offers a unique outlet for leisure activity within the park. Complete facilities include racquetball, handball, basketball, volleyball and shuffleboard courts, table tennis and a game room. A full schedule of recreational activities for all ages is provided for those who wish to participate.

**NATURE CENTER** — Open year 'round, and designed on a 'Please Touch - Gently' theme, it includes natural history exhibits, nature games and quizzes, and a full range of naturalist-led activities available free of charge to park visitors. A self-guiding nature trail lies just behind the center.



OPEN ALL  
YEAR

Write to Reservation Clerk  
Canyon Inn, Spencer, Indiana 47460  
for Reservations and Further  
Information  
(812) 829-4881  
Rooms available on the European Plan

### HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

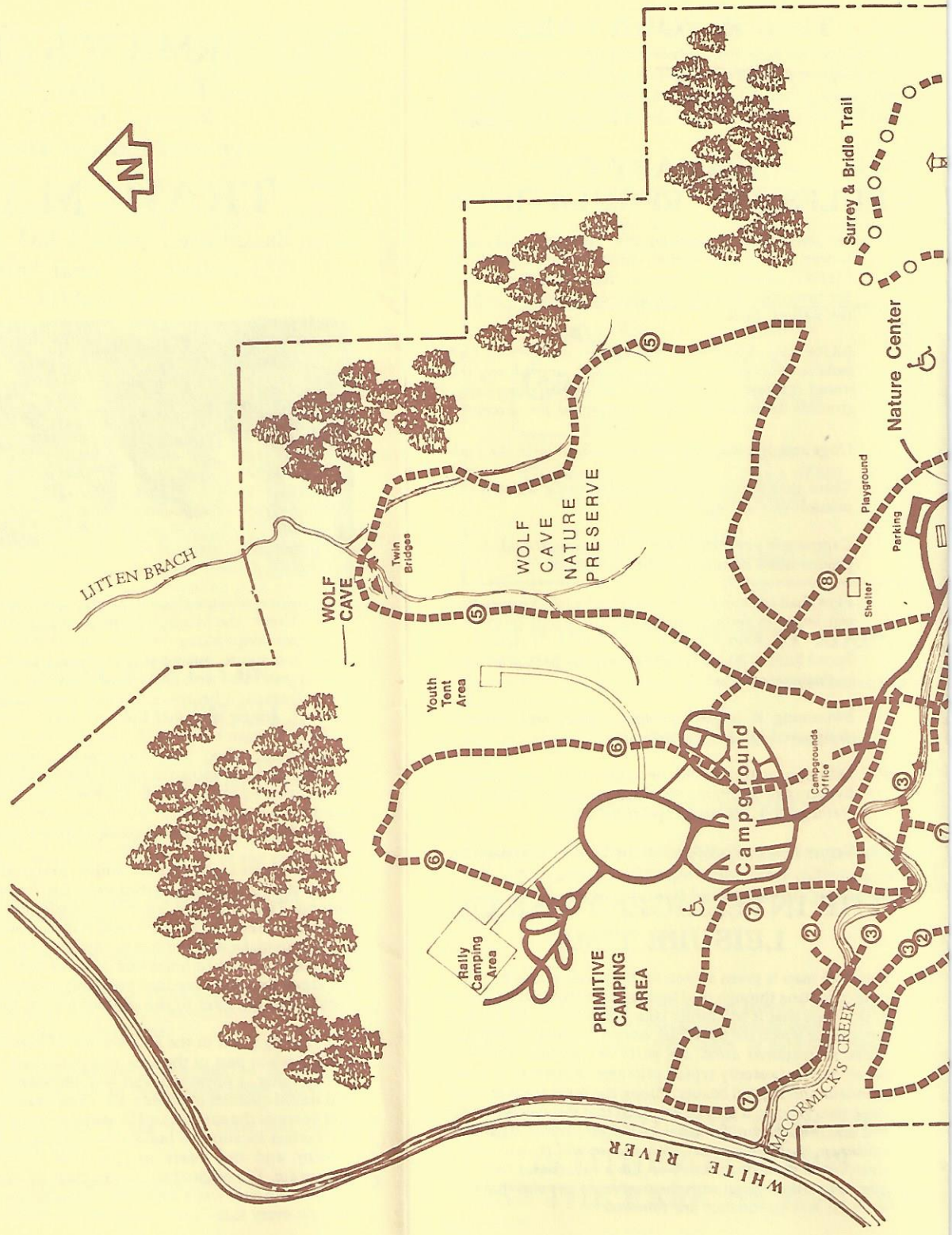
Build fires in designated places.  
Be sure that cigars and cigarettes are extinguished before they are thrown away.  
Break your match before you drop it.  
Report any violation of fire regulations to park officials at once.

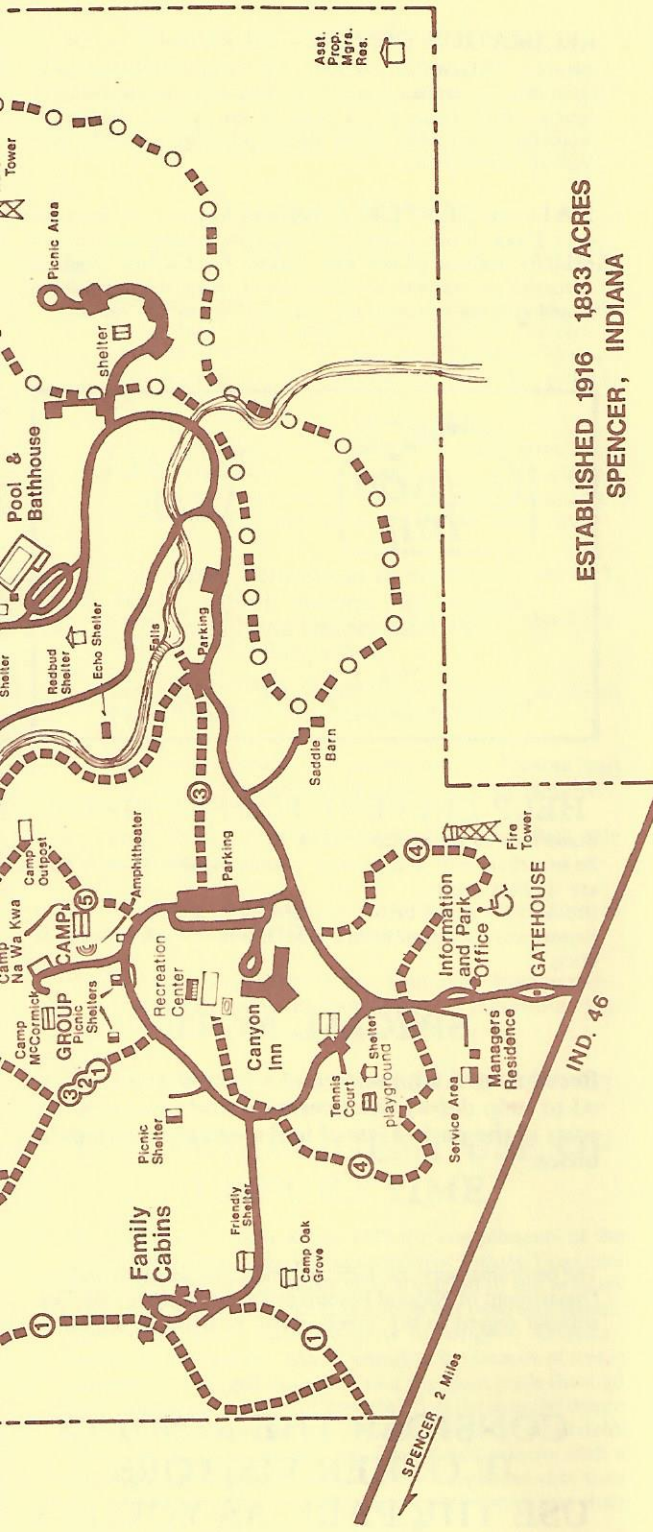
### SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. Lists of fees available in the park office.

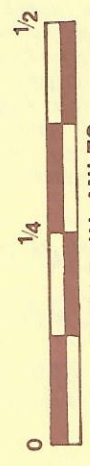
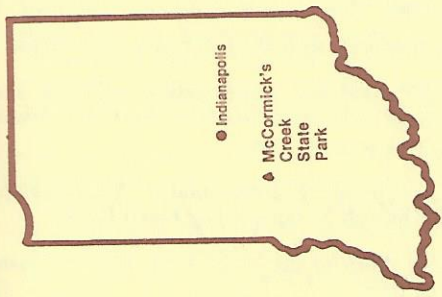
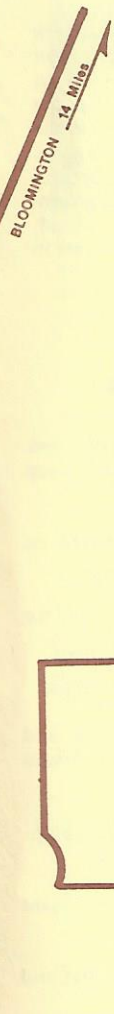
The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone without regard to sex, creed, color, or national origin.

**CONSIDER THE RESULTS  
IF OTHER VISITORS  
USE THE PARK AS YOU DO**





ESTABLISHED 1916 1833 ACRES  
SPENCER, INDIANA



SCALE IN MILES

**LEGEND**

	Road		Boundary
	Trail		Usable by Handicapped
	Surrey Trail		

TRAIL TABLE

TRAIL MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE	TRAIL MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2 1/4	Moderate	5
2	2	Moderate	6
3	2	Moderate	7
4	1 7/8	Moderate	8
			3
			1 1/4
			2 5/8
			1/4

Rugged  
Easy  
Rugged  
Easy