

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 alive or dead) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
2. Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
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 of Natural Resources.
5. Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups in the family campground.
6. Fires shall be built only in places provided. Visitors must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
7. Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
8. Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
9. Drinking water should be taken only from hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water supply is tested for purity.
10. Report lost or found articles to the property manager.

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.

THE INTELLIGENT USE OF LEISURE TIME

This trail map is given to you with the compliments of the State of Indiana through its 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 citizens 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.

1-88

OUABACHE

STATE PARK

6720 E. 100 South
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
Pronounced "Wabash"
TRAIL MAP

Established 1962 1,065 Acres
(219) 824-0926



This area of Wells County was occupied by the Miami Indians whose villages flanked the banks of the Wabash River. In 1829, the first settler built a cabin near here along the river. After the Indians were removed to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma during the 1830's and 40's, the area was rapidly settled and cleared for farming. "Ouabache" is the French Jesuit spelling of the Miami Indian pronunciation of the word, "Wabash."

Ouabache was first acquired and operated as the Wells County State Forest and Game Preserve in the early 1930's. By this time the area had been cleared of most of its mature timber stands and was severely eroded. The area gradually returned to a more natural state through the efforts of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) programs of reforestation and land management. Major activities included constructing the various buildings and shelters of native stone and timber, nursery plantings, and the development of the game preserve. At one time the park was widely acclaimed as the "Greatest Wildlife Laboratory in the United States" for its efforts in raising pheasants, quail, raccoons and rabbits. It soon became one of the largest producers of pheasant and quail chicks in the nation. One can still see remnants of the old pens along some of the trails.

By the early 1960's the game-raising program was phased out and in 1962 the park was designated Ouabache State Recreation Area, administered by the Division of State Parks. Since then changes have been made, and other than some of the original buildings, the park scarcely resembles its early existence. Finally, in 1983 the State Recreation Area classification was dropped and Ouabache became a State Park. Ouabache now features a modern campground, olympic-size swimming pool, seasonal naturalist service, an exercise trail, and winter cross-country skiing in addition to trails, picnic areas, play fields, boating, fishing and a horsemen's campground. A wildlife exhibit featuring whitetail deer and American Bison, commonly known as Buffalo, is located just north of the firetower.

The Wabash River winds along the southern edge of the park, while Highway 216 is the northern boundary. An unusual aspect of this park is its division by Highway 316. Many types of wildlife such as deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, woodchuck, and squirrels are frequently seen along our roads and throughout the park. Motorists should be alert to park visitors and wildlife.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. Circles wildlife exhibit - begins at exhibit parking lot.
2. Begins at north end of campground. Winds north through pine plantation, then south along swimming pool complex and back east to campground.
3. Begins at north end of campground, travels eastward through magnificent stands of oak and hickory, passes a woodland marsh, and winds its way to the point of origin.
4. Begins at wildlife exhibit, branches north through heavy pine plantations, then west through more pines, hawthorne, etc., and back east along the southern edge of Kunkel Lake and around to the point of origin.
5. The "Ouabache Trail" begins at the wildlife exhibit and circles the entire property, utilizing portions of all trails. Trail 5 may be started and finished at any trail entrance and at the youth tent campground. The trail will take you through virtually all types of trees and terrain available in the area. There are also several interesting foot-bridges along the trail.

STAY ON THE MARKED TRAILS!

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES



ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BOATS — For rental by day or hour. Life jackets available. Private boats may be launched. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than (2) 12-volt batteries are allowed. Life-jackets are required by law.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, etc. State License required.

CAMPING — Campground equipped with modern facilities. Occupancy limited to two (2) weeks. Some sites will accommodate trailers. No modern hook-ups, but electricity available. Rally campground also available.

PAVILION — Rustic building with fireplace, kitchen facilities and parking. Contact the property manager for details.

PICNICKING — Two large picnic shelters, many tables, and charcoal grills, also, playground equipment, playfield and two tennis courts.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Cross country ski equipment can be rented or bring your own. Equipment can be rented at the rental pavilion.

WILDLIFE — A twenty-acre exhibit consists of whitetailed deer and American bison in natural settings.

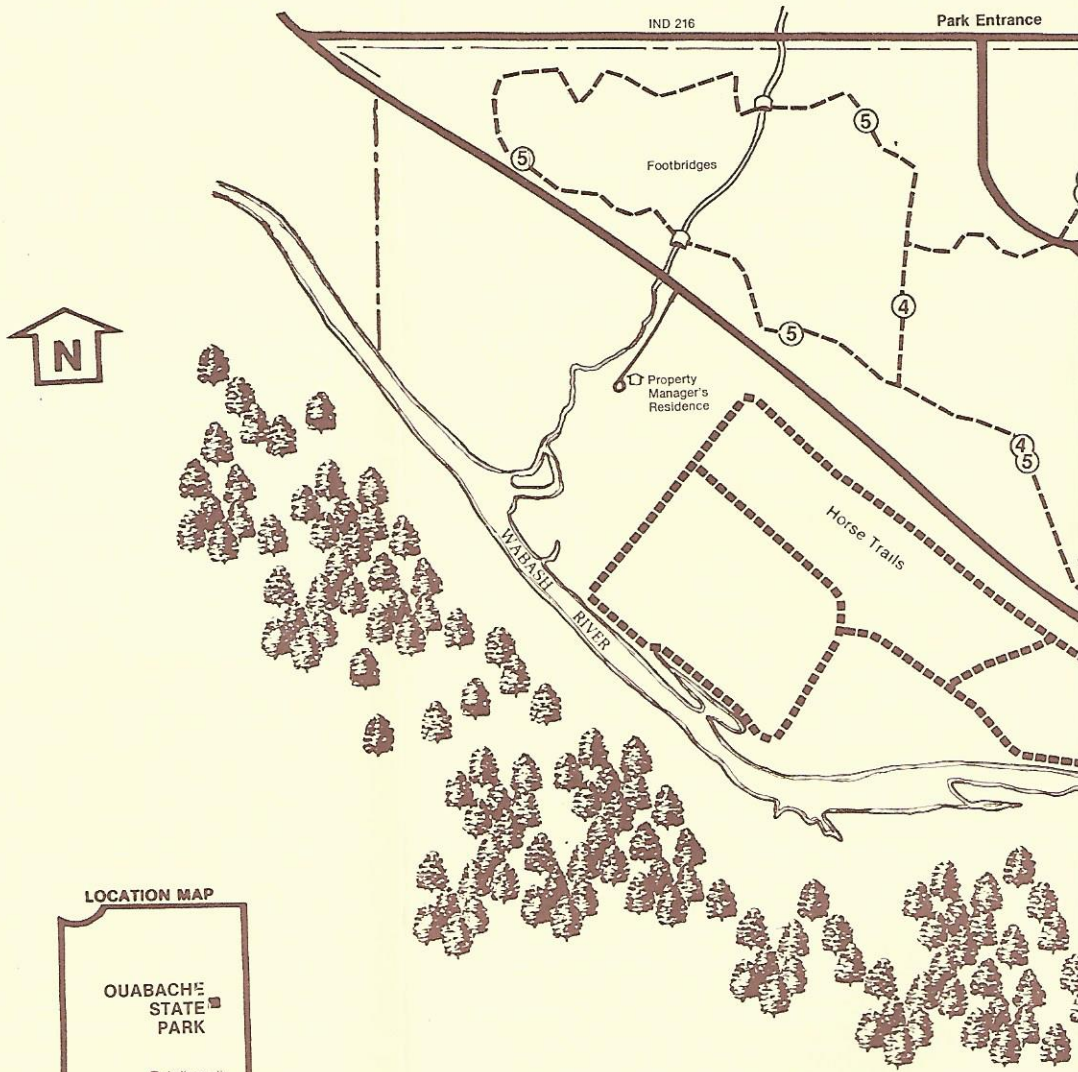
HIKING — Miles of moderate trails - no bicycle or vehicles of any kind permitted on trails.

SWIMMING — Olympic-size pool with bathhouse and wading pool; open the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day.

HORSE TRAILS — For owners of horses (no rentals available); trails begin at horsemen's campground. Horses not permitted on hiking trails.

FIRETOWER — A 100 foot tower offers scenic view of the entire area. Children climbing the firetower must be accompanied by an adult.

EXERCISE TRAIL — A one-mile trail with 20 different stations to test your endurance and ability.



LOCATION MAP



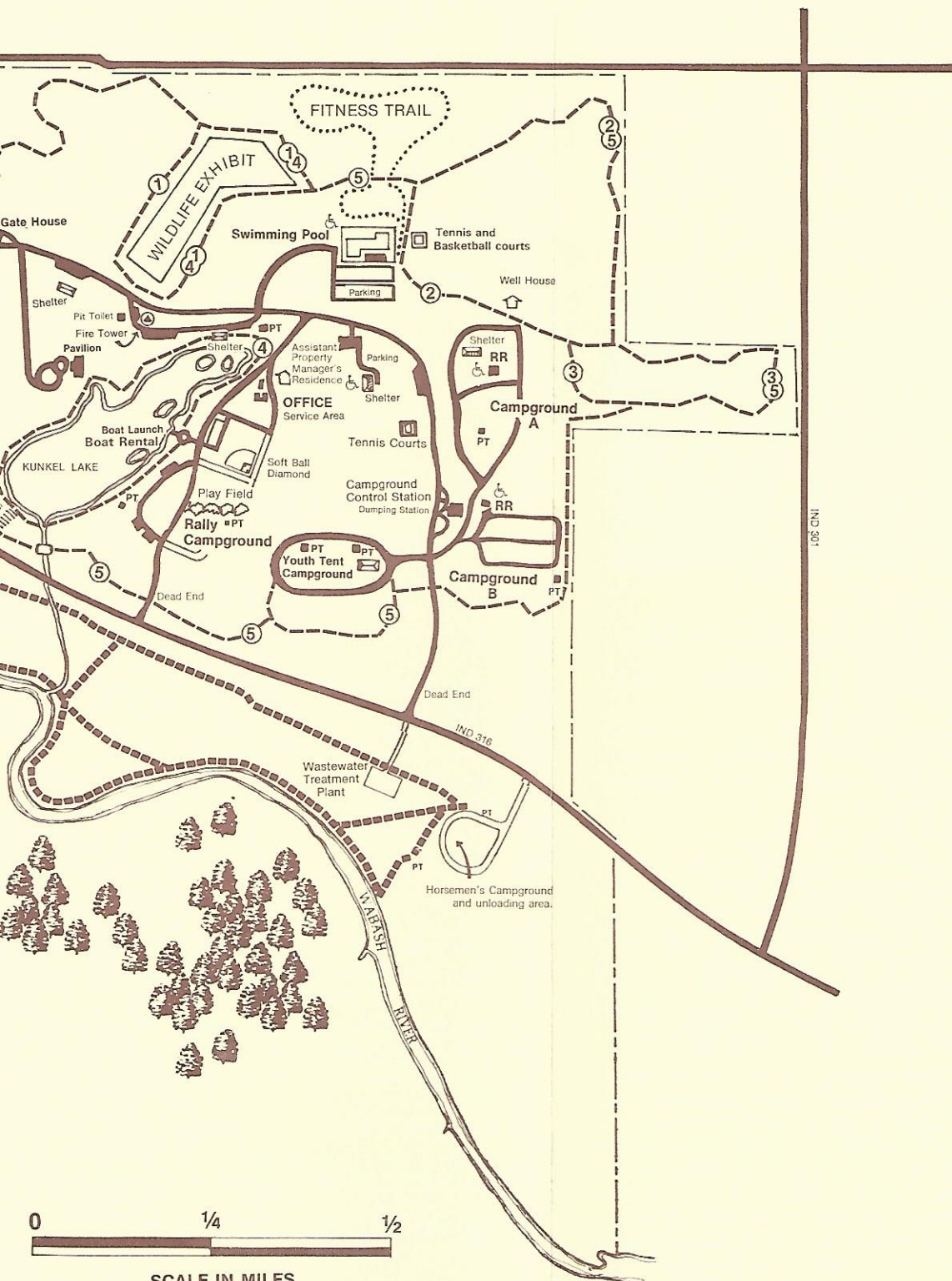
Established 1962 1,065 Acres
Bluffton, Indiana

TRAIL TABLE

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

LEGEND

	Road
	Gravel Road
	Park Boundary
	Hiking Trails
	Horse Trail
	Usable by Handicapped



SCALE IN MILES