

time. Before the establishment of the park, most of what was to become the park was used for farmland or pasture land. Old aerial photographs show the park as open area with few trees. Prudent resource management during the last 50-plus years by the Army allowed and encouraged reforestation of the rugged hills and deep ravines.

Recreational facility development began in 1995. The park opened in 1996, with picnicking, fishing, and hiking available. The modern campground opened in 1999 and expanded in 2002. Please visit again to watch this young park mature as additional activities and facilities are added in the years to come.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do not gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, paint gun 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 owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Vehicles shall stay on paved roadways and must meet legal requirements under Indiana's vehicle code. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m.
- Fossil, rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- All boats on Fourteenmile Creek are restricted to the use of electric motors only. This rule is strictly enforced.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BOAT LAUNCH—Charlestown Landing Boat Ramp is available for Ohio River access and fishing. A DNR Launch Permit is NOT required.

CAMPING—Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. All sites have electricity and will accommodate trailers. Dump and water-filling stations are available. Accessible sites include a walkway to the comfort stations. Camping reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING—Bass, bluegill, catfish and other game fish are common in the Ohio River and Fourteenmile Creek. A state fishing license is required.

HIKING—More than 13 miles of hiking trails are available. They are rated as moderate or rugged.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Guests can enjoy a guided hike or an informative program with the park naturalist. Program schedules are available at interpretiveservices.IN.gov or by asking for a schedule at the gatehouse, park office, or nature nook. These services are provided year-round. Hours may vary during winter months.

PICNIC AREAS—Include toilet facilities, playground equipment, shelters and playfields.

PLAYGROUNDS—Available in the campground and the picnic area along Trail 2.

SHELTERS—Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

TELEPHONE—A public phone is located near the gatehouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—Information about activities and facilities is available at the gatehouse.

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

Clark State Forest—boat ramps, camping, fishing, hiking trails, bridle trails, hunting, mountain biking, picnicking, play/sports area, shelter house, target ranges

Deam Lake State Recreation Area—boating, camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking, picnicking, playground, interpretive center

Falls of the Ohio State Park—boat ramps, fishing, hiking trails, interpretive services, historic features, interpretive center, wildlife watching

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION DISTANCE DIFFICULTY

Trail 1 2.4 miles Rugged

Begins at the Trail 1 parking lot and follows an existing paved road a short distance before turning to the left and slowly descending into the Fourteenmile Creek valley. It then meanders through dense floodplain forest before climbing up the valley wall to wind along rock outcrops and abutments. A lower portion of the trail offers scenic views of Fourteenmile Creek before climbing again as it returns to the parking lot. Spring wildflowers along portions of this trail will treat the hiker to stunning displays. Wildlife, songbirds, and birds of prey may be seen along this trail.

Trail 2 1.4 mile Moderate

Begins in the picnic area and follows several stream ravines as it circles back to return to the picnic area. The middle section of this trail runs along hillsides heavily forested with mixed deciduous hardwoods, bridges several small ravines, and offers scenic views of several small cascading falls and rock-bottom streams.

Trail 3 2.1 miles Rugged

The trail begins with a very steep road grade that once led to a footbridge over Fourteenmile Creek. The bridge provided access to Rose Island, a 1920s amusement park. The Rose Island facilities were damaged beyond repair by the 1937 flood, and the bridge was removed once the Army bought the land in the 1940s. Good areas for stream-bank fishing can be reached by following the paved portion of Trail 3 to Fourteenmile Creek. The middle section of this trail is very scenic with views of Fourteenmile Creek, rock cliffs high above the trail, abundant spring wildflowers, and mixed deciduous forests.

Trail 4 2.9 miles Rugged

Trail 4 begins at same parking lot as Trail 3. Beginning on gently rolling land, this trail soon begins to descend into mixed hardwood forests as it follows tributaries of Fourteenmile Creek. At about the halfway point, hikers will see commanding views of Fourteenmile Creek from a bluff more than 100 feet above the water. High quality woodlands and striking wildflower displays are found on this trail.

Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Online: camp.IN.gov
Call: 1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Reservations: 1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)
Online: IndianalInns.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Charlestown State Park
3000 State Park Drive
Charlestown, IN 47111

Call: 812-256-5600
Online: on.IN.gov/charlestownsp
Mapping Address: Charlestown State Park
12500 State Road 62
Charlestown, IN 47111



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

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TRAIL & DESCRIPTION DISTANCE DIFFICULTY

Trail 5 1.2 miles Moderate

Conveniently located in the campground near site 17, this trail is easily accessed. Descending a wooded ravine, the trail ultimately comes to a platform overlooking Fourteenmile Creek. Winding back up the hillside, the trail ends where it started, so it's a short walk back to your campsite. Non-campers can enjoy this trail by parking in the overflow lot and hiking the .3-mile leg to the main loop.

Trail 6 2.3 miles Rugged

This scenic trail starts across the road from the Riverside Overlook and runs along the top of the river bluff. The bluff top offers glimpses of the Ohio River and Twelvemile Island, and overlooks the boat ramp. A bridge crosses a natural waterfall and descends to the old Charlestown Landing site, where locals used to send and receive goods by boat pre-1940s. From there it is a stroll back along the bluff bottom. Enjoy the towering bluffs. During spring, there is an abundance of wildflowers.

Rose Island Loop .9 miles Easy

To reach the Rose Island Loop Trail take Trail 3 southbound to Portersville Bridge. Notice Trail 3 is a steep, paved .6 mile path. Those needing ADA assistance can call the park office to arrange transportation to Rose Island Loop Trail. Rose Island was an amusement park in the 1920s. The site boasted a small zoo, pony rides, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, roller coaster, shooting gallery, cafeteria, swimming pool, and more. After the Great Depression attendance to Rose Island slowed, and the 1937 flood damaged the park beyond repair. Not truly an island but actually a peninsula, visitors could only reach the park by steamer, bridge or ferry. Today park visitors can reach Rose Island across the historic Portersville Bridge. The bridge was dismantled from Dubois and Daviess counties, and rebuilt at its present site between 2008 and 2011.

5K Course 3.1 miles Easy

The course is designed as a 5 kilometer loop that continuously leaves the central area through 8 feet wide mowed trails. When returning to the central area, keep the uncut grass to your right until you come to a new mowed trail. The course is marked with posts at all 5 kilometers and at each mile.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall follow our 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 public's use and enjoyment.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

CHARLESTOWN STATE PARK



on.IN.gov/stateparks

The birth of the Ohio River, the primary feature of the park, began in the Ice Age, when glaciers and periodic natural damming began to form the river. Historically, the river was shallow enough to walk across in the hot summer months, but in the late 1800s construction started on a series of man-made dams that made the river what it is today. Currently 981 miles long, the Ohio offers many recreational opportunities from catfishing to water skiing.

Rugged and winding, the Fourteenmile Creek valley is one of the oldest unglaciated stream valleys in Indiana. As a tributary to the Ohio, the creek today appears as a long, winding "ribbon" lake rather than as a flowing stream. This unique look is due to locks and dams on the river. During the periods when the river level is increasing, Fourteenmile Creek actually appears to be flowing in reverse, as rising river waters back into the creek valley.

From 1940-1995, the park land was part of the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant, which totaled approximately 15,000 acres at one