

limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran into problems getting the cut rock across the river to the railroad line.

The turning point in McCormick's Creek history came in 1888, when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkewalter, a physician interested in the site's scenic and restful qualities. Dr. Denkewalter saw the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs as the perfect location for a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy and 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 planted 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, 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 1920s, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Later changes brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the inn still rests on the original foundations.

Originally a little more than 350 acres, McCormick's Creek State Park grew to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farms and homesteads as they came up for sale. Much of the park's building improvements came in the 1930s, when the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) was in the park. The CCC men constructed most of the shelter houses, the old stone bridge, and the fire tower. Another surge of development came in the early 1970s, when the present campgrounds, Nature Center and swimming pool were added. Today the park is a delightful combination of history set in modern surroundings.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall 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 public's use and enjoyment.

Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding wildlife 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.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

CAMPING—Campground equipped with modern restrooms, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Both Electric and Primitive sites are available. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

CAMP STORE—Offers a fully stocked camp store with nature-themed gifts. Located by the Inn.

PRIMITIVE AND YOUTH TENT CAMPING—No showers or modern restrooms available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

FAMILY CABINS—Each cabin accommodates a maximum of six people and has a living area, bedroom, bathroom, screened-in porch and kitchen. Cabin 7 is accessible and sleeps 4 people. Pets are not permitted in the cabin area. Open April - October. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

CENTENNIAL & SUNSET CABINS—Located within the Family Cabin area, this cabin accommodates up to 8 people and has a living area, eat-in kitchen, seasonal room, 1 bedroom and ADA accessible bathroom on the 1st floor. The 2nd floor has 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Pets and smoking are not permitted in this cabin. Open year-round. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

GROUP CAMPS—Each camp, Camp McCormick and Camp Na Wa Kwa, has four sleeping barracks, capacity 25 people each; a large dining hall/kitchen accommodating 100 people in each camp; and a modern shower house located in the center of both camps. Reserve through the Central Reservation System.

HIKING—10.7 miles of easy to rugged trails.

CANYON INN—Guest rooms feature private bath, telephone, coffee pot, hair dryer, TV and air conditioning. The restaurant is open to the public and serves three meals, seven days a week, year-round. The inn's outdoor pool is open to inn guests only. No pets allowed. Guest and meeting rooms have Wi-fi. Reservations are available through the Inns Reservation System.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Open all year, 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. Program schedules are available at the Nature Center, at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or (812) 829-4344.

PICNIC AREAS—Include tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields. In addition, McCormick's Creek has 8 open shelters and 4 recreation buildings. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

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.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to places and times set by the DNR.
- 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.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadways. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Bicycles must be used only on roadways and are not allowed on hiking trails.

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

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)—boating, boat ramps, camping, fishing, fishing pier, hiking trails, hunting, seasonal interpretive service, seasonal interpretive center, marina, picnic area, play/sports area, boat rental

Morgan-Monroe State Forest—boating, boat ramps, camping, fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnic area, shelter house, group camp, trapping

Owen-Putnam State Forest—camping, hiking, bridle trails, hunting, mountain bike, trapping, fishing

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

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

RECREATION CENTER—Complete with indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities including volleyball and basketball.

SADDLE BARN—Trail rides and Hayrides offered. For reservation information, contact McCormick's Creek Stables at (812) 829-8848

SWIMMING—Park pool open the Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. For availability, contact the park office.

TENNIS COURTS—Lighted for night playing. Located behind Canyon Inn.

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

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone. Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371) Online: IndianalInns.com

CANYON INN OPEN ALL YEAR

Rooms available. Restaurant open to public. Information toll free: 1-877-922-6966 1-812-829-4881

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: McCormick's Creek State Park
250 McCormick's Creek Park Road
Spencer, IN 47460
Call: (812) 829-2235
Online: on.IN.gov/mccormickscreeksnp
Nature Center: (812) 829-4344
Saddle Barn: (812) 829-8848

SPECIAL NOTE

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

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DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
One	.5 miles	Moderate

A loop trail that begins between family cabins 6 and 14, loops through large native timber in McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and ends at the Family Cabin Area.

Two	1 mile	Moderate
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Trail begins behind the CCC Recreation Hall, ventures into McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and ends between family cabins 11 and 12. Also offers access to the Quarry Loop Trail for observation of the Old State House Quarry.

Three	.8 miles	Rugged
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A loop trail that begins across from Canyon Inn and offers access to the falls and canyon before ending at Stoney restroom. There are no bridges crossing the creek. Fluctuating creek levels may make areas of the trail seasonably inaccessible.

Four	1.4 miles	Moderate
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Begins behind the Canyon Inn pool and travels toward the Recreation Field, McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and the CCC fire tower. Trail 4 ends on the road near Canyon Inn.

Five	2 miles	Moderate
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A loop trail that begins at the Wolf Cave Parking Area, enters Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, loops through a Beech-Maple forest, crosses Litten Branch, and offers access to Wolf Cave before ending near the Wolf Cave parking lot.

Six	.6 miles	Easy
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Begins beside Beech Grove Shelter, travels through dense forest and ends in the Class A campground between campsites 19 and 20.

Seven	1.8 miles	Moderate
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A loop trail that begins across from the Wolf Cave parking lot, and travels along the canyon rim before descending toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk. Fishing is permitted on the river.

Eight	.7 mile	Accessible
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A paved trail that begins in the campground, between campsites 14 and 15, and proceeds through woodlands and the Pine Bluff picnic area, ending at the pool and concession stand.

Nine	1.2 miles	Easy
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Trail begins in the Deer Run parking area and loops through young and mature forest stands on a sinkhole plain. Peden Farm site is accessed by service road.

Ten	.7 miles	Rugged
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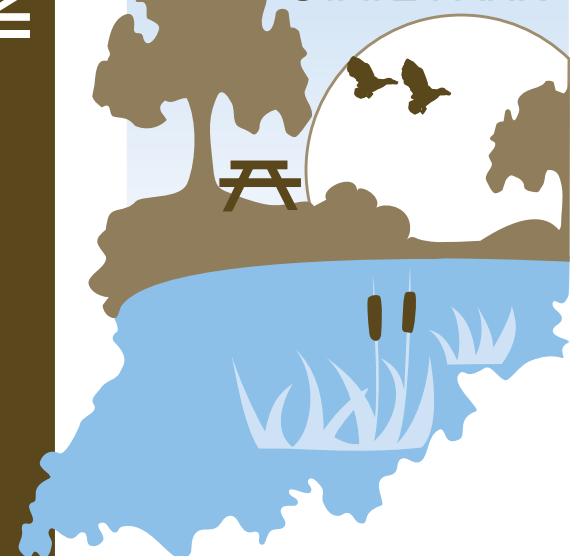
Trail begins across from Wolf Cave parking lot, descends into canyon by staircase, and proceeds downstream to stairway that connects to Trail 7.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

McCORMICK'S
CREEK
STATE PARK



Founded in 1916 as Indiana's first state park, McCormick's Creek has a rich history. Its earliest history is reflected in its geology: fossilized corals tell of Indiana's time as a shallow, tropical ocean, bits of granite brought here from Canada share our glacial story, and flint artifacts tell part of our Native American history. McCormick's Creek and southern Indiana were shared hunting grounds for the Delaware, Miami, and Shawnee before their forced removal.

In 1816, the area's first settler, John McCormick, homesteaded nearly 100 acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. Since it was then common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, the area became McCormick's Creek.

Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, but the water level and force were never great enough to make them profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened

on.IN.gov/stateparks