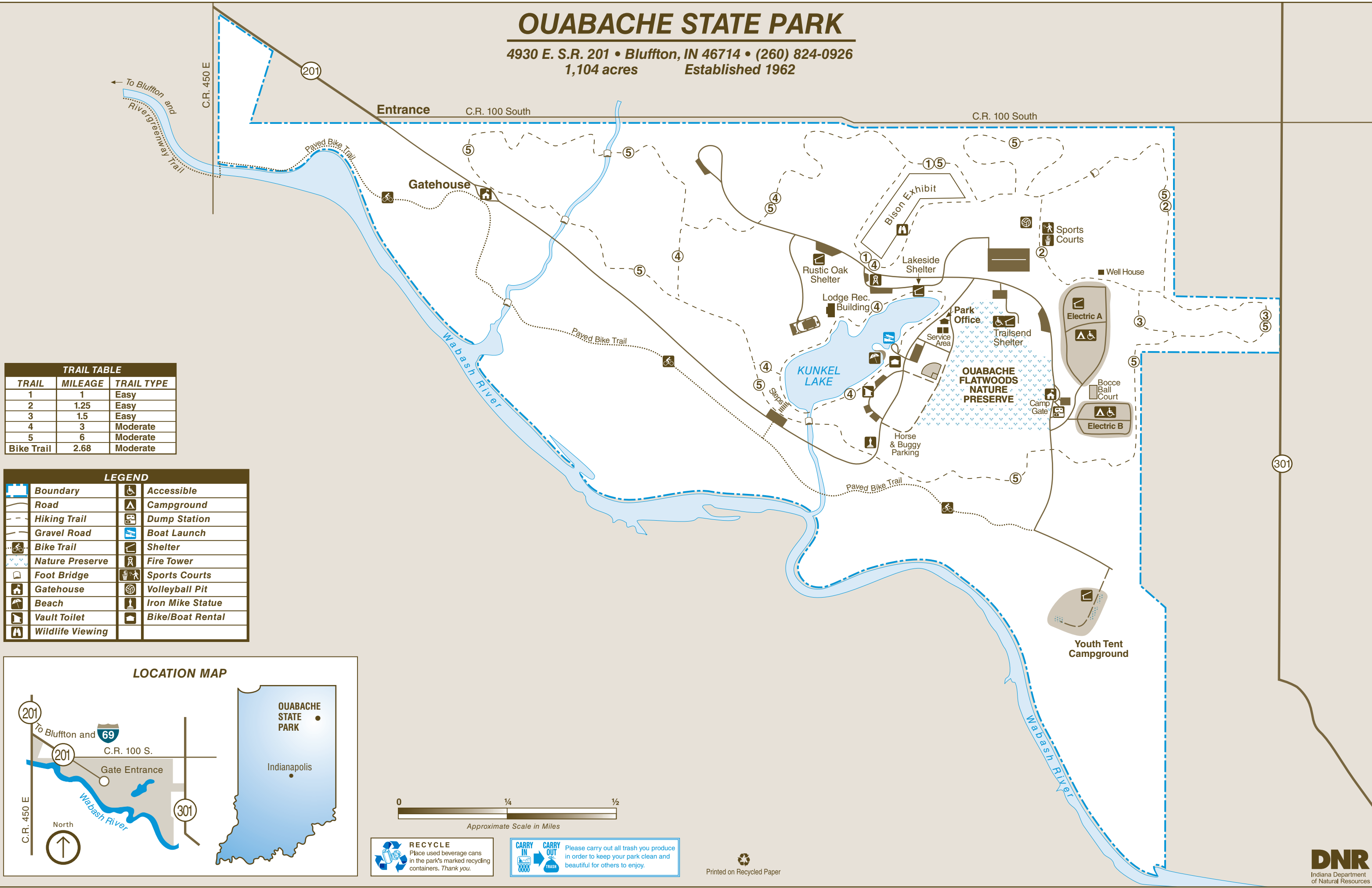


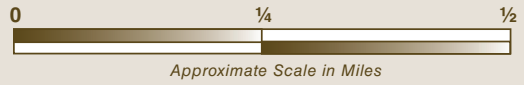
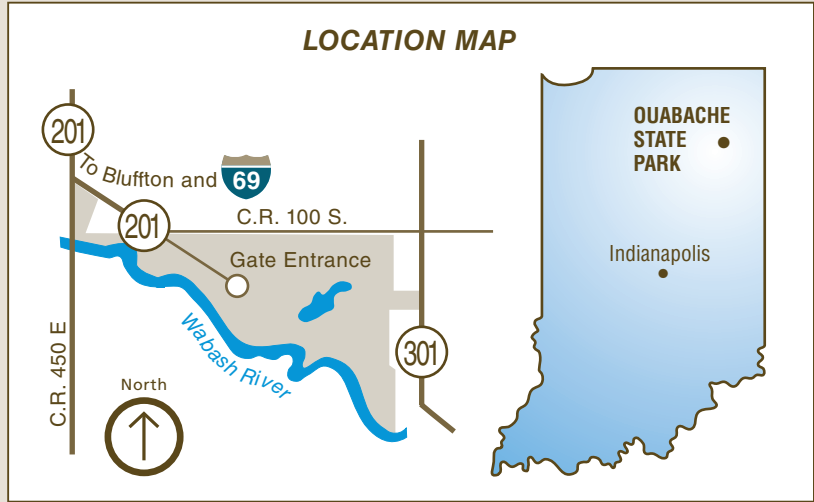
OUABACHE STATE PARK

4930 E. S.R. 201 • Bluffton, IN 46714 • (260) 824-0926
1,104 acres Established 1962



TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	1	Easy
2	1.25	Easy
3	1.5	Easy
4	3	Moderate
5	6	Moderate
Bike Trail	2.68	Moderate

LEGEND			
	Boundary		Accessible
	Road		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Dump Station
	Gravel Road		Boat Launch
	Bike Trail		Shelter
	Nature Preserve		Fire Tower
	Foot Bridge		Sports Courts
	Gatehouse		Volleyball Pit
	Beach		Iron Mike Statue
	Vault Toilet		Bike/Boat Rental
	Wildlife Viewing		



RECYCLE
Place used beverage cans in the park's marked recycling containers. Thank you.

CARRY IN CARRY OUT
Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.

Printed on Recycled Paper

developing a game preserve.

At one time the park was widely acclaimed as the "Greatest Wildlife Laboratory in the United States" for its raising of pheasants, quail, raccoons and rabbits. One can still see remnants of their old pens along some of the trails.

By the early 1960s the game-raising program was phased out. In 1962 the park was designated Ouabache State Recreation Area, administered by the Division of State Parks. These days, other than the presence of some of the original buildings, the park's appearance scarcely resembles that of its early existence.

In 1983, the State Recreation Area became a state park. Features include a modern campground, tennis and basketball courts, seasonal naturalist service, picnic areas, playfields, and boating and fishing on 25-acre Kunkel Lake. An exhibit featuring American bison, commonly known as buffalo, is located just north of the fire tower.

An asphalt bike trail, accessible at the entrance gatehouse, connects to a Rivergreenway Trail outside park boundaries and follows the Wabash River to the east edge of Bluffton. This 10-foot-wide paved trail also is popular with hikers and joggers. The entire trail is approximately 3 miles long. Motorized vehicles of any kind are prohibited on the trail.

The Wabash River winds along the southern edge of the park, while County Road 100 South is the northern boundary. Many types of wildlife such as deer, fox and squirrels are frequent companions along park roads and throughout the property. Motorists should watch for park visitors and wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits and drive cautiously.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the 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.

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

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BEACH—Free access beach open the Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day.

BISON EXHIBIT—A 20-acre exhibit consisting of American bison in a natural setting.

BOATS, CANOES, KAYAKS, PADDLEBOATS, BICYCLES—Day or hour rental. Lifejackets available.

BOAT RAMP—Accessible on the east side of the lake, north of the beach. A lake permit is required to launch private boats. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than 12-volt batteries, are allowed.

CAMPING—Electric and primitive youth tent sites for approved groups only. Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Most sites will accommodate trailers. No full hookups, but waterfill station and dump station available. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FIRE TOWER—A 100-foot tower offers scenic views of the entire area. An adult must accompany children climbing the fire tower.

FISHING—Bass (restricted size), bluegill, etc. State license required. Contact park office for license purchases.

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

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal naturalist on staff. Program schedules at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov.

IRON MIKE—The men of CCC Company 1592 lived and worked at the Wells County Game Farm from 1935–40. The game farm became an Indiana State Park in 1962.

LODGE RECREATION BUILDING—Rustic building with fireplace, kitchen facilities and parking. Reservations up to one year in advance available through the Central Reservation System. Contact park office for details. No overnight stays allowed.

PAVED BIKE TRAIL—2¾ miles, asphalt trail connects east end of park south of campground to bridge at 450 East and Bluffton's Rivergreenway Trail.

SHELTERS—Two modern picnic shelters, one open shelter, many tables, and charcoal grills. Playground equipment throughout the park. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

SPORT FACILITIES—Tennis/Basketball courts, both of these are equipped with lights. Sand volleyball, softball diamond with backstop, playfield, bocce ball court. All are available first-come, first-served.

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. No youth groups are permitted in the family campground.
- 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 the swimming beach during times designated 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 roadway. Snowmobiles and horseback riding are prohibited.

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

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.
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Ouabache State Park
4930 E. S.R. 201
Bluffton, IN 46714
Call: 260-824-0926
Fax: 260-824-9402
Online: on.IN.gov/ouabachesp

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.



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

See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at stateparks.IN.gov.

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit OutdoorIndiana.org or call 317-233-3046.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

DESCRIPTION OF HIKING TRAILS

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Trail 1 Circles bison exhibit, starting at exhibit parking lot.	1 miles	Easy

Trail 2 Begins at north end of campground. Winds north through pine plantation, then south along volleyball court and back east to campground.	1.5 mile	Easy
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Trail 3 Begins at the north end of the campground, travels east through magnificent stand of oak and hickory, passes a woodland marsh and ends at the point of origin.	1.5 miles	Easy
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Trail 4 Accessible from levee. Runs throughout interior of property, traveling through pines and hawthornes. Allows access to fire tower, lake and northern section of bison exhibit.	3 miles	Moderate
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Trail 5 The "Ouabache Trail" begins at the bison exhibit and circles the entire property, using portions of all trails. Trail 5 may be started and finished at any trail entrance. The trail will take you through virtually all types of trees and terrain available in the area. Several interesting footbridges dot the trail.	6 miles	Moderate
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PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- **Limberlost State Historic Site**—The Limberlost marsh was the perfect laboratory for author Gene Stratton-Porter to study nature. At a time when most women were homemakers, Stratton-Porter created a lasting legacy of northern Indiana's vanishing natural history through her writings and photos
- **J. Edward Roush Fish and Wildlife Area**—Boating, boat ramp, fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife watching, shooting range
- **Batzell- Lenhard Woods Nature Preserve**—¾ mile hiking trail and parking

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

OUABACHE STATE PARK



This area of Wells County was once occupied by the Miami, whose villages flanked the banks of the river that bears the name Wabash. Ouabache is difficult to spell but easy to pronounce, O-ba-chee.

In 1829, the first settler built a cabin along the river, near the eventual state park site. After the Native Americans were removed to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma during the 1830s and '40s, the area was rapidly settled and cleared for farming.

Ouabache was first acquired and operated as the Wells County State Forest and Game Preserve in the early 1930s. By that time the area had been cleared of most of its mature timber stands and, as a result, 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. Their major activities included constructing the various buildings and shelters of native stone and timber, planting for a nursery and

stateparks.IN.gov