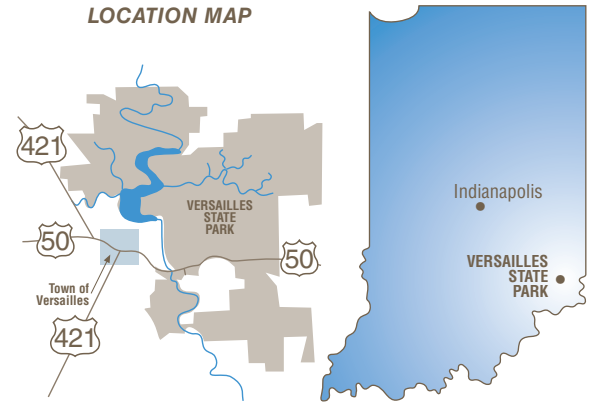


# VERSAILLES STATE PARK

Box 205, 1387 E. U.S. 50 • Versailles, IN 47042 • (812) 689-6424  
5,988 Acres Established 1943

**CAUTION:**  
Trail crosses  
Laughery Creek.  
Impassable during  
high water.

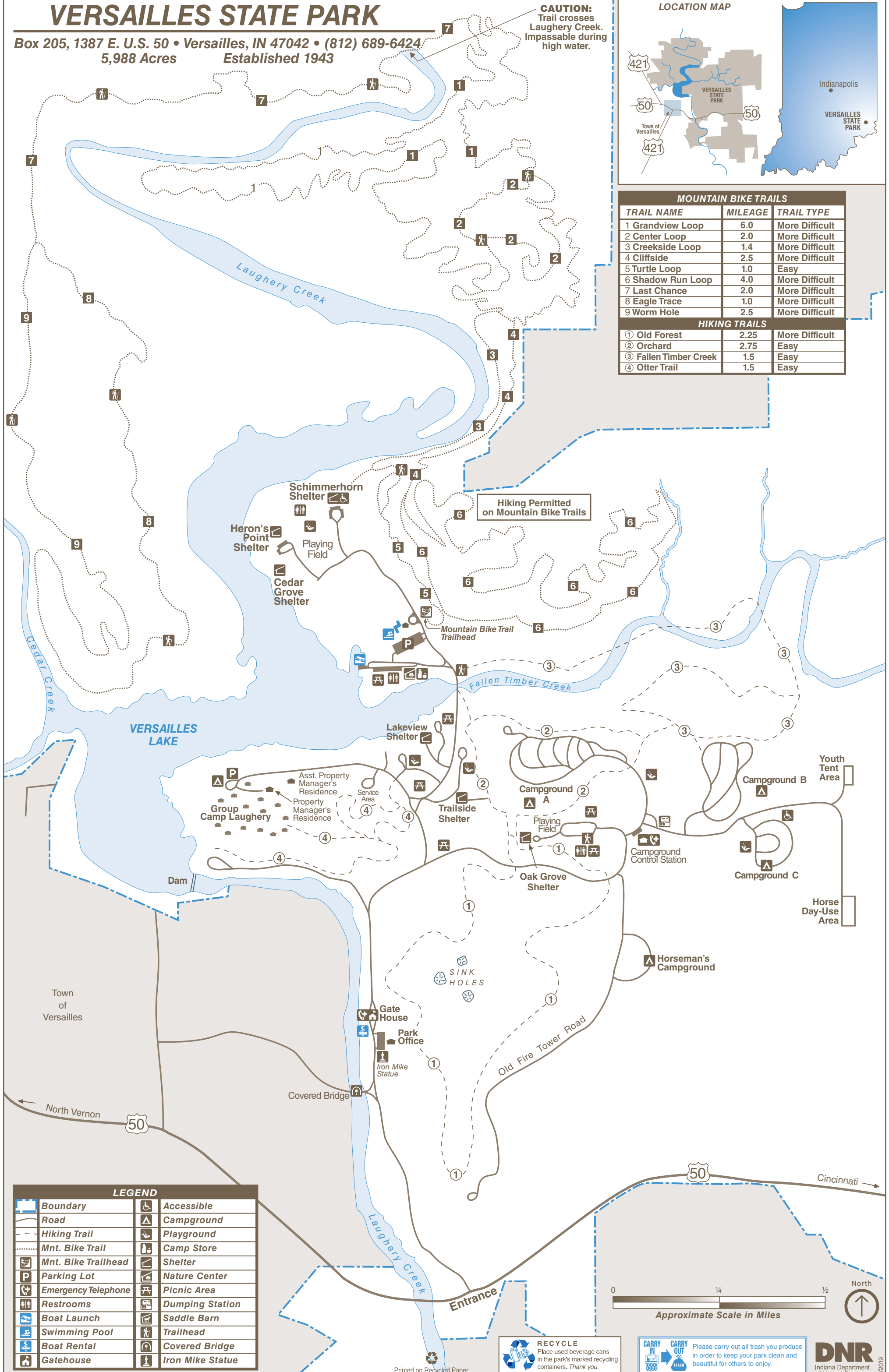
## LOCATION MAP



MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS		
TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1 Grandview Loop	6.0	More Difficult
2 Center Loop	2.0	More Difficult
3 Creekside Loop	1.4	More Difficult
4 Cliffside	2.5	More Difficult
5 Turtle Loop	1.0	Easy
6 Shadow Run Loop	4.0	More Difficult
7 Last Chance	2.0	More Difficult
8 Eagle Trace	1.0	More Difficult
9 Worm Hole	2.5	More Difficult

HIKING TRAILS		
TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
① Old Forest	2.25	More Difficult
② Orchard	2.75	Easy
③ Fallen Timber Creek	1.5	Easy
④ Otter Trail	1.5	Easy



LEGEND			
	Boundary		Accessible
	Road		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Playground
	Mnt. Bike Trail		Camp Store
	Mnt. Bike Trailhead		Shelter
	Parking Lot		Nature Center
	Emergency Telephone		Picnic Area
	Restrooms		Dumping Station
	Boat Launch		Saddle Barn
	Swimming Pool		Trailhead
	Boat Rental		Covered Bridge
	Gatehouse		Iron Mike Statue



**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.

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

recreation building to house the boys ranging from 18 to 28 years old, known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. These CCC enrollees developed the park through tree planting, native stone masonry and wood construction, road construction and path work, watershed and erosion controls, and water construction projects. President Franklin Roosevelt's "tree army" also joined artisans in constructing buildings and shelters. Most of their original work is still present throughout much of Versailles State Park.

During fall 1937, Company 596 was pulled from Versailles to work in Oregon. By April 1943, the National Park Service deeded the property to the state of Indiana, and the "Versailles Project" became Versailles State Park, Indiana's second-largest state park. Today the park includes 5,988 acres.

Construction of Versailles Lake began in January 1954. Using prison laborers, the 230-acre lake was built as an area water supply and recreation outlet, opening to the public for boating, fishing and swimming in June 1958. New facilities and features have been added to the park over the years. A swimming pool complex, complete with a waterslide, opened in 1987. As a result swimming in the lake is no longer permitted.

Running directly through the park is Laughery Creek, named after Col. Archibald Lochry, a Revolutionary War soldier. In 1781, Col. Lochry and his men were traveling down the Ohio River to meet with George Rogers Clark at the Falls of the Ohio. Before they arrived, the soldiers died in a battle with Native Americans where Laughery Creek enters the Ohio River, just south of Aurora.

An abundance of history lies below the park's surface. Over time Laughery Creek has cut its way through Silurian reef limestone, creating rugged cliffs and exposing fossil-rich, 475-million-year-old Ordovician rock. Throughout many of the park's creeks, hikers will find fossils, including bryozoans, brachiopods, corals and crinoids. Numerous sinkholes and associated springs point to an extensive underground drainage system that dominates the park.

The park's beautiful hardwood forests provide expansive habitats for songbirds and a variety of wildlife.

To learn more about Versailles State Park and the opportunities that the park provides, visit the Nature Center located near the lake. Its interactive exhibits prove to kids of all ages that a trip to Versailles can be both educational and recreational.

For a list of park events, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov)

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**BOAT RENTALS**—Boats may be rented by the hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched on the lake at the boat ramp. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two 12-volt batteries, are allowed.

**BRIDLE TRAILS**—25 miles of bridle trails are available for those bringing their own horses. Trails are for day-use only. Horseman's Campground available for overnight stay.

**CAMPING**—Electric sites only. Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. All sites accommodate tents or trailers and have electricity and firerings. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

**CAMP STORE**—Located adjacent to the Nature Center near the lake. Firewood may be purchased.

**CONCESSION**—Located at pool. Open during pool hours.

**FISHING**—In 230-acre Versailles Lake. Bass, bluegill, catfish, and other small game fish. State fishing license required, available at the park office.

**GROUP CAMP**—Camp Laughery accommodates 120 persons. This complex includes sleeping cabins, kitchen with appliances, dining hall, shower house and recreation hall. Available April through October. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

**HIKING**—More than 8 miles of hiking trails are available. Ratings for the trails are easy and more difficult. Hiking permitted on mountain bike trails.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICES**—Available three days a week from Memorial Day to the middle of August. Hikes, educational and interpretive programs and evening activities are offered by a seasonal interpretive naturalist. Program schedules available at [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](http://InterpretiveServices.IN.gov) or (812) 689-6424. Exhibits on park's natural and cultural history on display at the Nature Center.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**—16 miles of trails. Hiking permitted on mountain bike trails.

**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields.

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

**SWIMMING**—A 25-meter swimming pool with a 100-foot waterslide is available. A children's water play area with wading pool and "rainmaker," a pool house with lockers, showers and a concession area are part of the complex. Swimming is prohibited in Versailles Lake.

## BRANDT NATURAL AREA

Enjoy the scenery of the eastern side of Versailles State Park, known as the Bradt Natural Area. Donated in November 2001, this is where the Bradt family resided and farmed in the 1900s. Although the structures in which they lived no longer exist, those 83 acres now flourish with native flora and fauna. Hike the 3.1 mile long trail through the southwest wooded area. Enjoy watching deer, squirrels, and many species of birds in their natural habitat. Take a stroll and visit the wetland area, which possesses a large body of water with surrounding cattails and aquatic plants. Location: 39°03'44.7"N, 85°12'21.2"W, S. Co. Rd. 300 E., Milan, IN 47031.

## 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, CO<sub>2</sub> 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 pool, when lifeguards are on duty.
- Horseback riders shall ride on horse trails only. Horses are not permitted on hiking or biking trails.
- The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed entrance into the park between those hours, except anglers and registered campers at their site.

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

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://IndianalInns.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Versailles State Park  
Box 205  
1387 East U.S. 50  
Versailles, IN 47042

Call: (812) 689-6424  
Online: [on.IN.gov/versaillessp](http://on.IN.gov/versaillessp)  
Mapping Address: Versailles State Park  
1387 E. U.S. 50  
Versailles, IN 47042

## 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](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

Subscribe to Outdoor Indiana magazine today, Visit [OutdoorIndiana.org](http://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
Old Forest Trail	2.25 miles	Difficult

Circles upland woods and ravines along the eastern bluff of Laughery Valley, featuring oak, hickory, maple, beech, tulip poplar, black walnut and other native trees. Look for limestone sinkholes along the way. Trail can be accessed from below, from the Old Fire Tower Road or near Oak Grove picnic area. Parents, please watch children at road crossings.

Orchard Trail	2.75 miles	Easy
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Makes a figure 8 along the hill of the southern edge of Fallen Timber Creek/ravine. The trail rounds Campground A to near the CCC-constructed Oak Grove shelter, where Trail 1 can be picked up. Encircling Campground A, access can be made near Oak Grove picnic area, behind Trailside shelter, from several points in the campground, and from Fallen Timber bridge at the lake.

Fallen Timber Creek Trail	1.5 miles	Easy
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Begins north of Fallen Timber bridge and goes east along Fallen Timber Creek. Crosses the creek three times before joining Trail 2. Numerous invertebrates inhabit the creek bottom.

Otter Trail	1.5 miles	Easy
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Mountain bike trail maps are available at entrance gatehouse and mountain bike trailhead.

## PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

### 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.

## DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

- **Crosley Fish and Wildlife Area**-boating, boat ramps, dog training, areas, fishing, hunting, target ranges, trapping, wildlife watching
- **Splinter Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area**-hunting, wildlife area
- **Selmier State Forest**-fishing, hiking trails, hunting

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

## DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources



stateparks.IN.gov

As the sun tucks away behind the picture-perfect backdrop of red, blue and purple clouds, the loud squawk of a great blue heron breaks the silence as it glides effortlessly over Versailles Lake. Anglers cast glowing bobbers to prepare for a night of catfish excitement as a family of raccoons eagerly searches the banks of Laughery Creek for crawdads.

Another family lights its campfire near the tent to enjoy a night of marshmallows and ghost tales narrated by distant owls.

This is just another day in the making at historic and rural Versailles State Park.

In August 1934, during the Great Depression, the National Park Service announced plans to develop a federal park on 1,700 acres of marginal Ripley County farmland. By fall, land was secured for the Versailles Recreation Demonstration Area, the first federal park in Indiana. The following January, more than 200 young men known as Company 596 arrived to begin work. The first focus was constructing 15 barracks, a mess hall, an administration building and a