

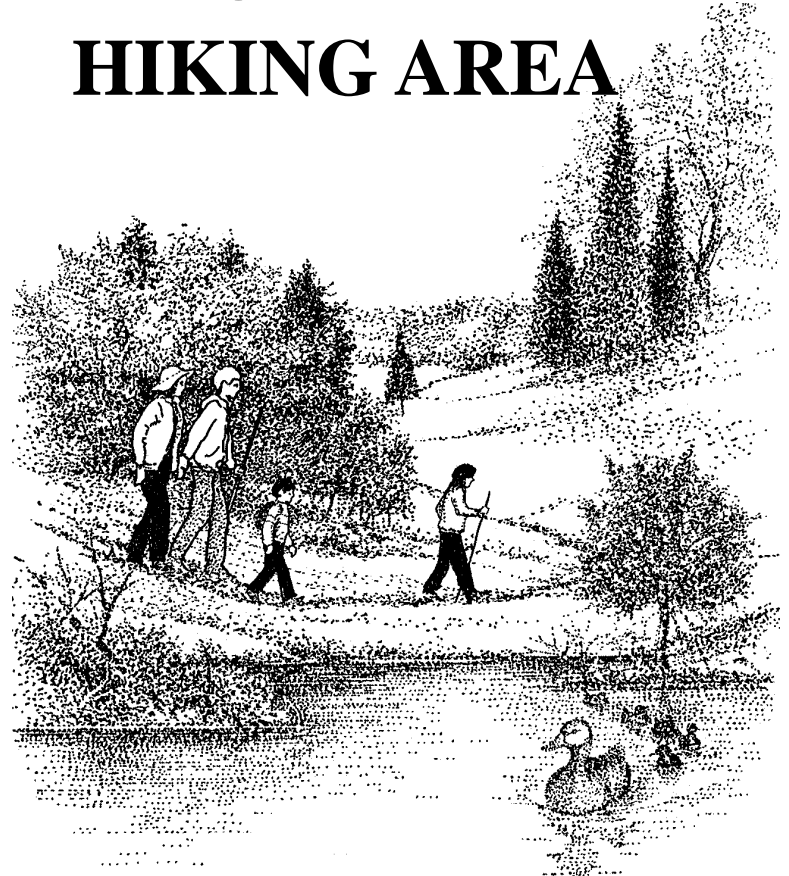
WELCOME TO PATOKA LAKE HIKING AREA

The hiking area contains approximately 1,000 acres in a roughly triangular peninsula north of the Visitor Center-Fisherman's Campground road. This area was set aside to provide visitors an opportunity to explore on foot a large roadless tract of Southern Indiana uplands. Hikers can spend an hour or a day exploring mature beech-maple and oak-hickory forest, rock shelters and outcroppings, pine plantations, abandoned farm fields in various stages of plant succession, and panoramic views of the lake. Bird watchers will find the diverse area supports many native species, while the quiet hiker or photographer may stalk deer, small mammals or even coyotes.

The map inside shows the route of the area as three trails. Other features of interest are also shown, including old roads, overlooks and rock outcrops. Hiking trails are shown as dashed lines. Because the trail connects points of interest along the ridge top to the lake shore, it is rugged and steep in places. A limited number of signs have been placed along the trail.

Should you become unsure of your location, remember there is one main ridge with a few short spurs; walking uphill will eventually bring you to the ridge on which the Visitor Center is located.

Before the lake was constructed this area was part of various farms. The only "litter" in the area prior to the opening of the property was an occasional mason jar or tractor part near old homes sites. Please help us maintain the area by "never letting it be said to your shame that this place was more beautiful before you came."



Interpretive Services
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

2/00

HIKING OPPORTUNITIES

Walking is a great way to see the natural world. Wildflowers, the scent of pines, and the sound of birds are best seen and experienced away from roads. The trails described below offer something for everyone.

MAIN TRAIL

A **six and one half mile** loop trail begins at the Visitor Center. This is a Moderate trail, well maintained but with a small number of signs. Average hiking time is **three to four hours**. Many visitors enjoy walking to Totem Rock, a large rock shelter that was used by Indians and early settlers. "**Short cuts**" back to the Visitor Center are available for those familiar with maps and hiking. Many of these are marked with location signs marked with "A", "B", "C", "D" or "E".

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION TRAIL

A **two mile** loop trail beginning at the Visitor Center illustrates habitat requirements of wildlife as well as wildlife management techniques used on the property. Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover planting, controlled burning and much more. A booklet keyed to numbered posts is available for this self-guided interpretive trail.

GARDEN ROCK LOOP TRAIL

A short loop trail begins just across from the Visitor Center's front door. If your time is limited and rock overhangs, ferns and pines sound inviting – try this trail. The trail can be hiked in thirty to fort-five minutes, but is hilly.

INTERPRETER- CONDUCTED WALKS

Join us for scheduled walks and hikes that may last thirty minutes to three hours. These walks are an enjoyable way to see the Reservoir, learn about nature and history, and meet other people.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR

DEN TREES

Beech and other trees provide homes and food for squirrels, woodpeckers, raccoons, and other animals.

EASTERN RED CEDARS

Are common "pioneers" in abandoned fields and grow well in poor soils. Cedars also provide food and shelter for wildlife.

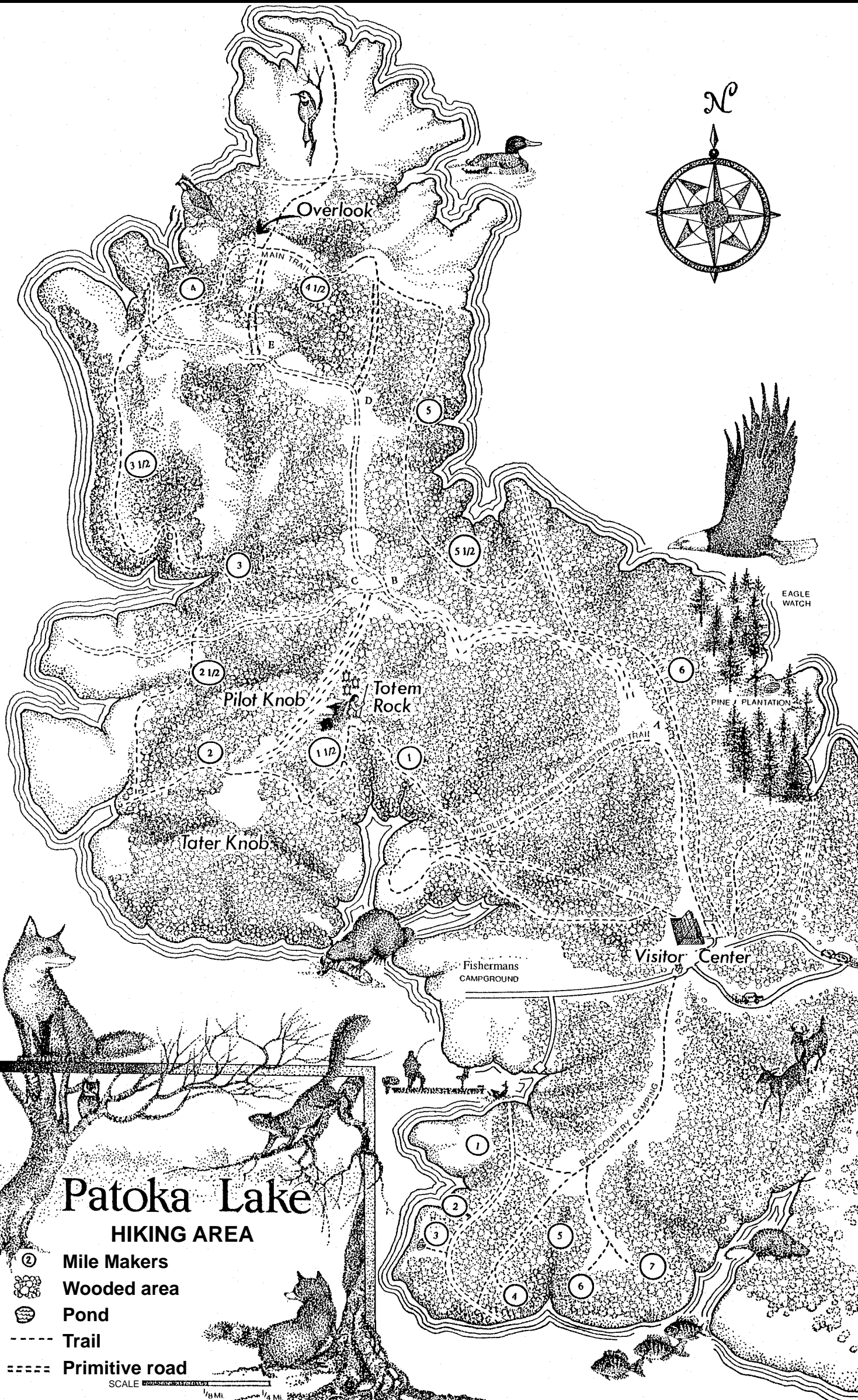
ROCK SHELTERS

were used by Native Americans hunting parties and later as livestock pens by settlers. Notice the animal burrows often found near the base.

WILDLIFE SIGNS






are abundant. Look for tracks, droppings, nests/dens and trails. Many animals are seldom seen because they come out only at night or are secretive.





Patoka Lake

HIKING AREA

-  Mile Makers
-  Wooded area
-  Pond
-  Trail
-  Primitive road

SCALE 