

Patoka Lake, the second-largest reservoir in the state, is located in Dubois, Crawford and Orange counties in southern Indiana on the Patoka River. Patoka Lake is accessible from state Road 164 along the southern edge of the property, state Road 145 running north and south along the eastern edge of the lake, or state Road 56, on the northern edge of the lake.

The purchase area of the Hoosier National Forest is located adjacent to Patoka Lake. The surrounding area of the lake consists of rolling topography, heavily wooded sections and deep draws and has retained a rustic and rural appearance. During their annual migration, bison created well-worn paths through the dense forests that served as the first roads of early settlers. A famous resort hotel located in French Lick established in the 1800s gained international recognition as a health resort primarily due to the mineral springs in the area.

Numerous caves of significance lie to the east of Patoka Lake. The scenic rock outcroppings, acres of timberland, and rich history of this area provide an outstanding place for sightseeing and recreation.

PURPOSE AND PROJECT HISTORY

Patoka Lake provides flood control, water supply, and general recreation and fish-and-wildlife opportunities. The lake forms an integral unit of the Ohio River Basin comprehensive plan and reduces flood stages downstream from the dam. Patoka was developed in accordance with a long-range program and provides for a beneficial use of reservoir lands, fish-and-wildlife resources, and an opportunity for outdoor activities on a large body of water.

Patoka Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of Oct. 27, 1965. Construction began in July 1972, with the dam completed in January 1979, and initial recreational facilities completed in December 1980.

TOTEM ROCK GEOLOGY

As you leave the Visitors Center on the main trail, you will walk over a ridge of sandstone that some say was laid down 325 million years ago by a huge river from the northeast that dumped its load of sand and silt into a shallow tropical sea. (You drove between outcroppings of this Wickliffe Formation as you approached the Visitors Center.) As the trail begins to traverse along a more northerly ridge system, the Wickliffe Formation abruptly ends, and a younger sandstone, the Mansfield, takes over. This Pennsylvanian-aged sandstone was laid down by a river back when drag-onlies with nearly 3-foot wingspans and salamanders 15 feet long inhabited the lush fern forests of the time. The best exposure of Mansfield sandstone along our trail system is Totem Rock, which exhibits the pocked honeycomb weathering typical of most sandstones. It also displays broad cross-bedding, which appears as intersecting "wood grain" patterns in the stones. Iron and manganese stain the rock red and brown, while a white crust of calcium sulfate (gypsum), potassium nitrate (saltpeter) and possibly epsom salts occurs on the rock face.

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

- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Report lost or found articles to the property office.
- This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, beverage at a swimming beach.
- No person shall possess or consume an alcoholic maximum and park only in designated areas.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, 30 mph.
- No person shall possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach.
- 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.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. DNR is prohibited.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the DNR is prohibited.
- A person who possesses a pet must attend the animal at all times and keep it caged or on a leash no more than 6 feet long.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one-day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign-in station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- No person shall launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or another floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the DNR for those purposes. No person shall leave a watercraft unattended in a courtesy dock.
- No person shall conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir properly administered by the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs without a proper license.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitors shall observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purposes for which the state operates reservoir properties, namely, to manage these areas for the enhancement of wildlife and for the public's use and enjoyment.

THIS IS YOUR LAKE

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

VISITORS CENTER—Located in the Newton-Stewart SRA, the Visitors Center is open daily for programs and special events. The interior contains nature and heritage displays related to the property, seating for presentations and a bird observation room. Backyard wildlife habitat gardens and a raptor viewing area offer an outdoor experience for a leisurely stroll as well as a variety of programs.

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.

camp.IN.gov
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.

IndianalInns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Patoka Lake
3084 North Dillard Rd.
Birdseye, IN 47513
Call: (812) 685-2464



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
dnr.IN.gov

SPECIAL NOTE

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

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.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

Because of size limitation, locations are marked listed above are in the Newton-Stewart SRA. Trail brochures are available at the Visitors Center.

Join us for scheduled Interpreter-Conducted Walks — learn about nature and history, and these walks are an enjoyable way to see walks and hikes that may last 30 minutes or three hours. These walks are an enjoyable way to see the Reservoir, learn about nature and history, and meet other people.

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DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BEACH—Swimming is available during open hours Memorial Day through Labor Day. A modern bathhouse provides showers, dressing facilities, restrooms, and food concessions.

BOAT RAMPS—Ten launch ramps are located at various points around the lake. Two major ramps are located within Newton-Stewart SRA.

CAMPING—Campsite types include 450 Electric sites with asphalt-surfaced pads, electricity, water, flush toilets, hot water and showers, a camp store, fish-cleaning station and trailer dump station; and 45 primitive sites. There is a fisherman campground designed primarily to serve anglers and primitive campers. Water is available in the immediate area with pit toilets located at convenient spots. Youth Tent camping is available. A launch ramp is also located within the campground. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING—The lake has been heavily stocked with bass, bluegill, catfish, redear, crappie and walleye. A state license is required and available at lake office.

HUNTING—Woodland game and waterfowl are available for the avid hunter during open seasons. Deer and squirrel are abundant in the area. All hunters are required to register at a hunter check-in station.

★ *Bonus County Antlerless Permits* are not allowed on property west of SR 145 and north of 164, East of 545/Cuzco Road. **Safety Zone**—Visitors Center Safety Zone is open to hunting Dec. 1 until May 15 and the *Campground Safety Zones* are open to hunting Dec. 1 until March 1.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Explore the world of natural resources and Patoka heritage while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Seasonal program schedules are available online at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or call (812) 685-2447.

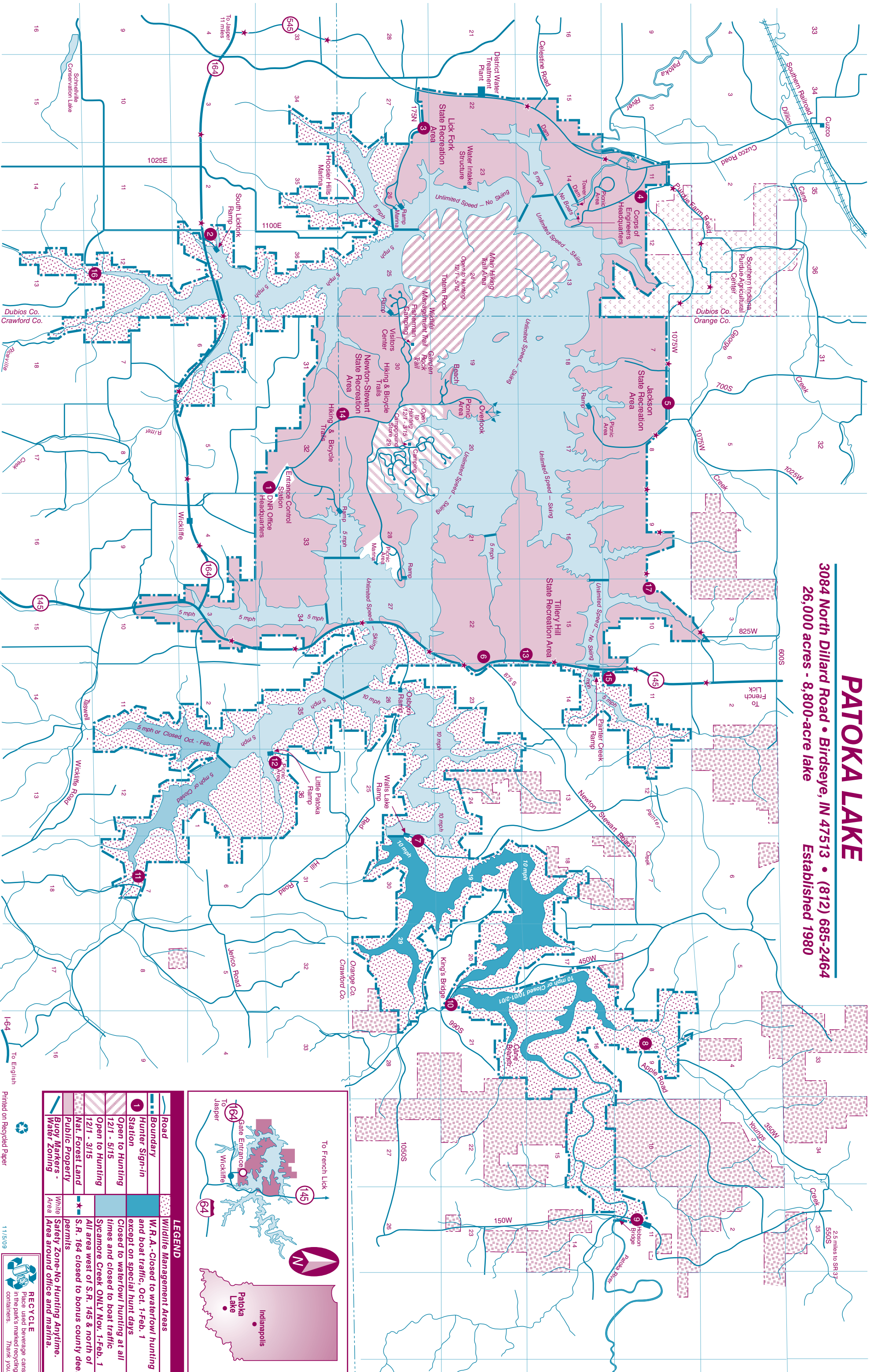
MARINA—Two marinas are located on Patoka Lake to serve your boating needs—Patoka Lake Marina in the Newton-Stewart SRA, and Hoosier Hills Marina on the West Side of the lake in the Lick Fork SRA. These marinas are operated by concessionaires for the State to provide fuel, rentals and a full range of amenities for your boating pleasure.

PICNIC AREAS—Picnicking is available in a number of areas with most sites containing tables, grills, toilet facilities and shelter. Accessible sites also are available.

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.

PATOKA LAKE

3084 North Dillard Road • Birdseye, IN 47513 • (812) 685-2464
 26,000 acres - 8,800-acre lake
 Established 1980



To French Lick
 To Jasper
 To English

Patoka Lake
 Indianapolis

| LEGEND | |
|--------|---|
| | Wildlife Management Areas |
| | Road |
| | Boundary |
| | Hunter Sign-in Station |
| | Open to Hunting 12/1 - 5/15 |
| | Open to Hunting 12/1 - 3/15 |
| | Nat. Forest Land |
| | Public Property |
| | Buoy Markers - Safety Zone-No Hunting Anytime. |
| | Water Zoning Area |
| | Wildlife Management Areas |
| | W.R.A. - Closed to waterfowl/ hunting and boat traffic, Oct. 1-Feb. 1 except on special hunt days |
| | Closed to waterfowl/ hunting at all times and closed to boat traffic |
| | Sycamore Creek ONLY Nov. 1-Feb. 1 |
| | All area west of S.R. 145 & north of S.R. 164 closed to bonus county deer permits |
| | Write Safety Zone-No Hunting Anytime. Area around office and marina. |