

FIELD TRIP GUIDE

REVISIONS 5 21-25



PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

Indiana's youngest state park, Prophetstown State Park is located where the Tippecanoe River meets the Wabash near the town of Battle Ground, northeast of Lafayette. The park's landscape was formed by ice, water, fire, and human hands. The first people arrived shortly after the glaciers receded. Abundant game and flowing water made the area attractive for settlements. In the early 1800s, Prophetstown was the site of a spiritual movement promoting unity among Native American tribes and pursuit of traditional practices.

This land includes more than 10,000 years of Native American history, restored prairie, wetlands, and open woodlands. Through our unique partnership with The Farm at Prophetstown, guests can discover 1920s farm lifestyles. The park offers programming through interpretive services (managed by Indiana State Parks) and through The Farm at Prophetstown (nonprofit partner of the park). Learn more: on.IN.gov/Prophetstown

PROGRAMMING FOR GROUPS

Guided programs are a great way to explore Indiana State Parks. The staff who lead our field trips and offsite programs are trained in natural and cultural history and in interpretation and education. Engaging in a program will enhance your experience at our site and lead to a deeper understanding of the heritage of Prophetstown State Park.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you'd like to visit both the state park and The Farm, contact the park's interpretive naturalist. Interested in programming from one of our organizations but not both? Reach out directly.

Jenna Parks Freeman

Interpretive Naturalist, Prophetstown State Park
JParks@dnr.IN.gov; 765-320-0503

Madia (Sunshine) Bickett

Event Coordinator, The Farm at Prophetstown
events@prophetstown.org, 765-567-4700

NAVIGATION TO THE PARK

Prophetstown State Park is at: 5545 Swisher Road West Lafayette, IN 47906
Park map: www.IN.gov/dnr/state-parks/files/prophetstown_trail.pdf



WANT TO EXPLORE THE PARK ON YOUR OWN?

Self-guided tours are allowed. We recommend that you call ahead even if you plan to lead your own group. Bus fee: \$2/ person.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

This guide provides an overview but is not exhaustive.

- Additional topics surrounding the history of the Prophetstown State Park region, regional flora and fauna, and more are available upon request.
- Scout programming is available upon request for American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts, Scouting America, Trail Life, and more.

FEES FOR GUIDED PROGRAMS

- Onsite 60-90-minute program with interpretive services start at \$2/ person, 10 participants minimum.
- Offsite 30-60-minute program with interpretive services start at \$2/ person, 15 participants minimum.
- Onsite 60-90-minute program with The Farm start at \$5/ person, 10 participants minimum.
- Additional fees may apply.

Fees apply to program participants, students, and chaperones. Teachers, bus drivers, and program coordinators are free.

Cash, check, and card accepted by both the park and The Farm. Invoices can be provided upon request. No refunds provided, except in special circumstances. Programming with The Farm at Prophetstown must be paid directly to The Farm. Programming involving both the park and The Farm must submit payment through The Farm.

OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS

Grant funding for field trips to Prophetstown State Park is available through the following:

- Discover the Outdoors Field Trip Grant: dnr.IN.gov/state-parks/programs/school-and-group-programs
- Grants through the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission including Indiana Educators Field Trip Grant for Native American Studies and The Michael Pace Indiana Educators Grant: www.IN.gov/inaiac/

We do not want any student to miss a field trip or program at their school because the child cannot afford it. First, check with your principal or your PTO to see if funds are available. If no school or other funding sources are available, we will waive the fee for any student who is receiving a free school lunch.

PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

Presentations for offsite groups that are primarily promotional in nature will not require a fee. For example, a talk about "What's new" at Prophetstown State Park would not require a fee, but a talk about natural or cultural history topics would require payment of a fee.



SCHEDULING A GUIDED PROGRAM

Most programs listed in this guide are available to groups on weekdays. Our peak field trip months are April-May and September-October. Programs may be booked up to six months in advance to the day. Programs should be booked at least two weeks before visiting. Availability is dependent on staff and volunteer schedules.

Offsite programming may be limited. We may refer you to another park for programming opportunities.

STAFF TO PARTICIPANT RATIO

These ratios help our staff and volunteers craft valuable and memorable experiences with our guests. We use these ratios as a rule of thumb. If your class or group exceeds these numbers, we will work with your group to create program rotations.

- Pre-K to 2nd grade, 1 staff:20 students
- 3rd to 7th grade, 1 staff:25 students
- 8th to 12th grade, 1 staff:35 students
- Adult groups, 1 staff:50 participants

CHAPERONES

We recommend following a 1:5 ratio for chaperones and students. Chaperones are expected to facilitate positive learning experiences in cooperation with educators, park staff, and volunteers.

WEATHER AND CANCELLATIONS

Prophetstown State Park is a prairie park and as such, the weather can change on a moment's notice. Guests may want to bring a rain jacket, windbreaker, hat, and/or shoes appropriate for hiking. Water bottles, sunscreen, and bug spray are strongly recommended.

The park and The Farm will offer programming rain or shine unless there is thunder, lightning, or severe weather in the area, in which case, the program may be canceled. The school or group may also choose to cancel the program for weather-related reasons. In that case, please notify us at least 12 hours in advance.

All Indiana State Parks are carry-in, carry-out facilities. Please bring your own trash bags or receptacles for lunch waste and plan to take waste back with you.

PICNIC SHELTERS

Picnic shelters are available for reservation. All shelters have wooden picnic tables, electricity, lights, and a charcoal grill, and are located near a playground, vault toilet, and modern restrooms (available seasonally). Shelter reservations cost. We recommend reserving a shelter during peak field trip months and recreation season holidays. When not reserved, shelters are available first-come, first-served. A shelter may be assigned to your group depending on program type.

- Meadow View Picnic Area
 - Bobolink Shelter, capacity 50
 - Prairie View Picnic Area
 - Bergamot Shelter, Blazingstar Shelter, capacity 150
 - Coneflower Recreation Building (open-sided shelter with enclosed servery featuring stainless steel buffet counter and a charcoal grill in fireplace), capacity 120
- Shelter reservations can be made at camp.IN.gov or 866-622-6746.

NAVIGATION WHILE VISITING THE PARK

You may need transportation to travel throughout the property. For groups visiting by bus, we suggest having drivers stay for the duration of your visit.



- Distance from The Farm to the Visitors Center: 1 mile by vehicle
- Distance from The Farm to the nearest picnic shelter: 1.5 miles by vehicle
- Distance from the Visitors Center to the nearest picnic shelter: 0.7 miles by vehicle

INDOOR PROGRAMMING SPACES

The park's Visitor Center has a small conference room with space to seat 40. The conference room is enabled with Wi-Fi, audio, and HDMI projector capabilities. The conference room area must be reserved ahead of time by calling the interpretive naturalist.

The Farm has indoor space in the Barn and the Gibson Farmhouse that can be reserved, depending on the intended use and time of year. Maximum seated capacity is 50 people in the Barn and 30 people in the Farmhouse. For pricing, email The Farm's event coordinator.

PLEASE SHARE!

- Are there any accommodations we can make to create an inclusive experience for all participants?
 - Most programming can be modified to accommodate those with disabilities, including but not limited to hosting programming on paved surfaces, using audio amplifiers, reduced-pace programming, tactile opportunities, and more.
- Are there any health, allergy, behavioral, emotional, or other considerations our staff and volunteers should be aware of?
- What are students learning about in class that we can make connections to during your visit?



HISTORY FOCUS

The History of Prophetstown

Prophetstown, the park's namesake, was a significant Native American settlement active 1808-1811. The people who gathered here united under the leadership of Tenskwatawa and his brother Tecumseh to resist colonization and to stand up for their way of life. Learn about what life may have looked like for the Native Americans who gathered here and the importance of this history today.

Available: Year-round, onsite.
(Offsite PowerPoint available.)

Grades/Ages: 3rd and up, adults .

Time: 90 minutes.

Accessibility: Outdoors, requires participants to travel no more than 0.5 miles on a flat, natural path.

Optional Extensions: Cornhusk dolls or hoop and stick craft (additional fee).

The Farm at Prophetstown Tour

Discover early American agriculture at this historic 1920s farm. Tour the Sears, Roebuck & Company homes, walk the farmstead visiting the gardens, chicken coops, pastures, barn, and more. Meet our animals up close and see what the life of a 1920s farmer was like.

Available: April-May, Aug-Sept, onsite.
Grades/Ages: K-12th, mixed-age groups, adults.
Time: 60-90 minutes.
Accessibility: Paved access to both homes.
Golf cart available upon request.

1800s Life on the Prairie

How has life changed from the 1800s to today? In this program we'll investigate everyday life for Native Americans, colonizers, and present-day Hoosiers. Students will create a small booklet using mixed media to take home with them.

Available: March-October onsite. Year-round, offsite.
Grades/Ages: K-3rd.
Time: 45 minutes.
Accessibility: Indoors or outdoors.



HABITAT FOCUS

Prairie Discovery

Learn about the tallgrass prairie habitat that once flourished here in northwest-central Indiana. Prophetstown State Park is working to restore this declining habitat. Come see the work that has taken place and the wonders this special habitat holds.

Available: April-October, onsite.
Offsite PowerPoint available.
Grades/Ages: 2nd and up, adults.
Time: approx. 20 minutes as a rotation, 45-60 minutes as a stand-alone program.
Accessibility: Outdoors, paved or natural path trails.
Optional Extensions: Twine plant fibers and sip native plant tea while learning about traditional and cultural uses for native plants (additional fee).

Where the Two Rivers Meet

The Tippecanoe River joins the Wabash River at Prophetstown State Park. Investigate the life that these waters hold, their connection to the region's history, and the wonders below their surface.

Available: April-October, onsite.
Offsite PowerPoint available.
Grades/Ages: 4th and up, adults.
Time: approx. 20 minutes as a rotation, 45 minutes as a stand-alone program, 120 minutes with guided hike to the Tippecanoe River.
Accessibility: Indoors or outdoors.
Optional Extensions: Try your hand fishing at the park's catch and release pond. Park will provide instruction, 10+ poles, and bait (additional fee).

Wonderful Wetlands Hike

Prophetstown State Park is home to a fen, one of the rarest types of wetlands found in Indiana. As a state nature preserve, the fen provides habitat for a variety of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. Dive into the wonders of wetlands on this guided hike.

Available: April-October, onsite.
Grades/Ages: 3rd and up, adults.
Time: 90 minutes.
Accessibility: Outdoors, 1 mile round trip hike on natural path. Path has two steep spots and may be damp or muddy, depending on season.
Optional Extensions: Test for water quality and use nets to catch macroinvertebrates (additional fee).

From Farmland to Park Land

How do you make a park? What does it take to restore habitats? Learn more about how park staff use prescribed fire, grow native plants, and remove undesirable species to restore the landscape you see today.

Available: Year-round, onsite.
Offsite PowerPoint available.
Grades/Ages: 5th-Adult.
Time: 45-60 minutes.
Accessibility: Indoors or outdoors, on paved trails or natural paths.
Optional Extensions: Seasonally, February-April, plant a native seed to take home with you (additional fee).

WILDLIFE FOCUS

Reptiles and Amphibians

Slither, hop, or swim into the amazing world of local reptiles and amphibians. What makes a snake a reptile or a frog an amphibian? The park cares for several animal ambassadors that serve as representatives of species found in the region. See these creatures up close as you learn about their significance. Choose from live snakes, frogs, or turtles, oh my!

Available: Year-round (indoors), April-October (outdoors), onsite or offsite.

Grades/Ages: Any (for Pre-K—2nd grades, we recommend only one animal.)

Time: approx. 20 minutes as a rotation, 45-60 minutes as a stand-alone program with 2-3 animals.

Accessibility: Indoors or out, stationary program.

Optional Extensions: Go behind the scenes and learn what it takes to care for these critters at our Visitors Center (additional fee).

Where the Bison Roam

Learn about the mammals that once roamed the prairies of Indiana and the species that roam Prophetstown State Park today. See taxidermy, skulls, bones, and touch fur from select species.

Available: Year-round, onsite or offsite.

Grades/Ages: 3rd—Adult.

Time: 45 minutes.

Accessibility: Indoors or outdoors.

Optional Extensions: Make tracks with stamps or cast your own replica to take home (additional fee).

MISCELLANEOUS

Guided Hike

Step onto the trail to discover flora and fauna and much more. Pick a topic of focus for your group like birds, geology, mammals, trees, wildflowers, or shapes and colors.

Available: Year-round, onsite.

Grades/Ages: Any.

Time: approx. 20 minutes as a rotation, 30-60 minutes as a stand-alone program.

Accessibility: Outdoors, routes can include paved paths, natural paths, or a mix of both.

Optional Extensions: Make and take your very own nature journal for this hike. Materials provided (additional fee).

Sensory Walk

Our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell help us navigate the world. How do creatures that live at Prophetstown State Park use their senses to survive? Put yours to the test during this guided walk.

Available: April-October, onsite.

Grades/Ages: Any.

Time: 45-90 minutes.

Accessibility: Outdoors, paved or natural path trails.

Optional Extensions: Consider booking this program in the evening to put your senses to the test.

Exploration Stations

Do your students have a wide variety of interests in the natural world? We'll set up exploration stations for your students based on their interests. This can be teacher led, or a park staff member/ volunteer will be on hand to facilitate questions for deeper learning opportunities.

Available: Year-round, onsite or offsite.

Grades/Ages: All.

Time: approx. 20 minutes as a rotation, 30-60 minutes as a stand-alone program.

Accessibility: Indoors or outdoors.

