

Indiana County Parks & Trails
1128 Blue Spruce Road
Indiana, PA 15701

www.indianacountyparks.org
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About Indiana County Parks & Trails...

Indiana County Parks & Trails operates 2,600 acres of parks, trails, historic sites and natural areas. The agency was officially established in 1967 and is a department of Indiana County government.

Blue Spruce and Pine Ridge Parks were the first county parks created. The agency operates 3 regional parks, 3 historic sites, 2 natural areas and 2 regional trails. The regional trail system, consisting of Ghost Town Trail and Hoodlebug Trail, totals 36 miles in length. The agency has one undeveloped site - the Waterworks Conservation Area. This 10-acre site, located along Two Lick Creek in White Township, will be established as funding becomes available. The site will provide fishing, stream access, hiking trails, and a passive acid mine treatment system at the former Lucerne #3 mine.

Agency staff includes a Director, Secretary, and five full-time maintenance employees. A seasonal maintenance crew of 3 - 6 employees is hired as needed. The agency's 2006 fiscal year budget is \$543,673 or 2.8% of the County's overall budget. Funding for county parks & trails has traditionally ranged from two to three percent of Indiana County's total budget. About 30 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties operate county parks. We believe county parks and trails are a good investment that helps improve Indiana County's overall quality of life.

The agency is administered under the guidance of the Indiana County Parks Advisory Board. Currently eight county residents serve on the Board appointed by the Indiana County Commissioners.

Our mission is...

- to provide a park system that is responsive and directed by the needs of the people of Indiana County;
- to preserve, protect and enhance county park lands to improve the health of our people and the environmental health of our county;
- to advance our local economy in a sustainable manner;
- to invite and encourage individuals, families, schools, businesses and organizations to become partners in our efforts to invigorate and sustain the county's natural resources for future generations.

Our partners...

We are assisted by a number of groups and organizations that help us achieve our mission. A partial list of our partners includes:

- Friends of the Parks (environmental education programs)
- Penn State Master Gardeners (trial gardens at Blue Spruce Park)
- C&I Trail Council (regional trails advocacy and support)
- Indiana Road Runners Club (annual 7k race to support trails)
- Numerous community groups (Festival of Lights)

We offer the following sites...

Blue Spruce Park	Eliza Furnace Historic Site
Pine Ridge Park	Tunnelview Historic Site
Hemlock Lake	Buttermilk Falls Natural Area
Memorial Park	Blacklick Valley Natural Area
Ghost Town Trail	Waterworks Conservation Area (undeveloped)
Hoodlebug Trail	

Rental facilities (pavilions and lodges) are available at Blue Spruce and Pine Ridge Park. Other sites have pavilions available at no charge.

Regional Trails...

Since the early 1990's an extensive regional trail network has been developed within the county. The first 16 miles of Ghost Town Trail were opened in 1994 - another 20 miles were added to Ghost Town Trail in 2005. This includes 12 new miles in Indiana County and eight new miles in Cambria County. The goal of connecting Indiana to Ebensburg via a trail is nearing completion. There are two short 'missing links' in the trail system that will be worked on over the next few years to complete the system.

Hoodlebug Trail was created in 1998 and totals 10 miles in length. The trail links with the Ghost Town Trail at Saylor Park in Burrell Township. An on-road bike route will extend Hoodlebug Trail from Black Lick to Blairsville where it will connect to the West Penn Trail (operated by the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy).

Our trails are popular with county residents and an increasing number of visitors from outside the region. The trails provide safe, convenient places to bike or walk and link communities, schools, parks, historic sites, and businesses. The trails provide transportation alternatives, recreation opportunities, heritage preservation, and tourism opportunities. By linking with other trails within the region, Indiana County is poised to become a key part of a growing national network of trails.

Visit our website: www.indianacountyparks.org for maps and more information.