



# Indy **Birding** **Trail** Guide

Indianapolis *Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor*

**BIRDINDY**

Urban Bird Treaty City





*Rose-breasted Rosebeak*

**D**id you know that more than 400 species of birds have been observed in Indiana? From the fascinating Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the magnificent Bald Eagle, many bird species rely on Indianapolis for a permanent home or a vital stop-over during migration. Here in Indianapolis we are a part of the Mississippi Flyway, a migratory zone that ushers birds all the way from the northern Arctic to southern Argentina on their seasonal journeys for food and breeding grounds. It is because of our great natural diversity of bird species, appreciation of their contributions to our daily lives, and an awareness of the challenges they are facing that Indianapolis has decided to take action for our birds.

## What is BirdIndy?

On October 27th 2011, Indianapolis became one of the latest U.S. cities to sign the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (Urban Bird Treaty). Upon signing, Indianapolis was awarded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant to promote city-wide initiatives which improve bird habitat, increase community awareness, and encourage the active stewardship of migratory birds by residents. The challenge grant is matched by partners' dollars and in-kind support. Projects are currently underway to promote the conservation of Indy's migratory bird species and to connect city residents to our urban birds.

As an Urban Bird Treaty City, Indianapolis community partners such as Indy Parks, SustainIndy, Amos Butler Audubon, Butler University Center for Urban Ecology and local residents will launch new projects to engage our community and promote the health and sustainability of our local wildlife. The presence of native migratory bird species in our city allows for a richer cultural and biological community for our residents. Birds act as key indicators of environmental quality, foster a connection between city residents and their environment, and contribute financially to

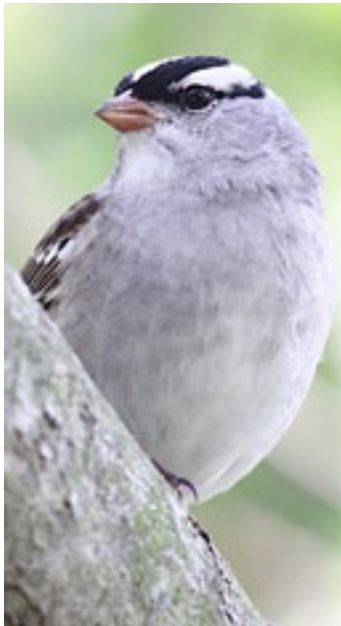


PHOTO BY RYAN SANDERSON

*White-crowned Sparrow*

local economies through outdoor recreational activities.

Explore our local BIRDINDY initiatives and projects to learn how you can help conserve our native migratory bird species and make Indianapolis a truly outstanding Urban Bird community.



PHOTO BY RYAN SANDERSON

*Tree Swallow*

## Birding Ethics

We encourage residents to seek out migratory and resident bird species for viewing, however, there are some important guidelines to making sure we are enjoying our wildlife without causing them harm. Please keep in mind that the most important part of being a birder is ensuring the success of our local populations and that may at times mean foregoing a close range photo op. Here are some tips to ensure your birding experience in enjoyable for you and of minimal impact to our birds. Keep in mind that many of these suggestions will improve your bird viewing experience as well as the experiences of local wildlife and fellow birders! For more complete information on birding ethics please visit the American Birding Association (ABA) website.

- Stay on paths, roads, and trails where available to limit habitat disturbance.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Crouch down to make yourself appear smaller or consider using a blind.
- Limit flash photography, artificial lighting, and sound recordings.
- Always keep your distance from nesting, display, and important feeding sites!
- Leave no trace! Make sure you pick up all trash and supplies used while viewing.
- Abide by the laws and rights pertaining to each property you are visiting. Be conscious of hours of operation, appropriate parking areas, and other visitors to the property.
- Be a role model and advocate for birding in Indianapolis. Lead others by example and please encourage onlookers to learn about birding and the Indy Birding Trail.

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## Supplies

In order to make your birding excursion more productive and enjoyable look over our recommended supplies and preparations before heading out for your day of adventure.

### Suggested Supplies

**APPROPRIATE CLOTHING:** Be sure you are dressed for the season. Birding can be done at all times of year here in Indiana so make sure your clothing will keep you comfortable and protected. It is always a good idea to have a raincoat nearby, a wide brimmed hat or other sun protection, and comfortable footwear. Read about the sites you are heading to in order to best prepare for the journey ahead. Many of our sites contain tall-grass prairie or meadow habitats and wearing long pants may be recommended to reduce exposure to ticks and other insect bites as well as poison ivy in some of our wooded habitats.

**FOOD AND WATER:** Even if you are just heading out for a couple of hours, we recommend keeping a water bottle on you along with some snacks. Please make sure to pack out any trash you make while on the trail.

**MAP:** We recommend an atlas, GPS, or access to our interactive map when exploring the Indy Birding Trail. Our sites are dispersed throughout Marion County and having a map handy can

save a lot of valuable time for birding.

**BINOCULARS:** Birding can be done with the naked eye, however, if you are trying to pin down what species you are looking at you will be need to see detailed markings and colorations which may be very difficult, if not impossible, without the aid of binoculars. Buying binoculars locally from an outdoor outfitter, wild bird feed store, or other outlet will allow you to speak with knowledgeable staff and try out the binoculars in the store before you buy them.

**BIRDING ID BOOKS:** Over time, more than 275 species of birds have been spotted within Marion County, which makes birding here in Indy an exciting and engrossing challenge. If you are interested in finding out what birds you are seeing a good field guide (or two) will be a necessity. Peterson field guides and National Geographic editions are popular guides. Go to your local bookstore to see what resources work best for you.

**CAMERA:** Wildlife photography can be a fun and rewarding pastime. Bringing a camera with you on your birding excursion can also help you to identify the species you were viewing in the field back at home where you may have more resources at your disposal. Be aware that birds are usually high in trees or far in the distance so only high quality cameras, often with specialty lenses will be able to capture a good photo.

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## Bird Identification

One of the most challenging, and rewarding, parts of bird watching can be bird identification. With 200 or more species of birds possible in Marion County during a given year, it's easy to understand why beginning birders may feel a little overwhelmed starting out. Think of your birding hobby as a life-long adventure adding new visual and auditory cues to your repertoire each year. By utilizing our beginner's suggestions, visiting the Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, and joining in on birding hikes with more experienced birders, such as Amos Butler Audubon staff, you will improve your birding skills while exploring Indianapolis and its many amazing birds.

### Identification Tips

Characteristics such as size, shape, habitat, behavior, markings and frequency will help you greatly in your early stages of bird identification. Chances are you will not see a Blue Jay diving into the water for its morning meal, it will not be a Wood Duck hammering away at bark for insects and larvae, and unfortunately it is unlikely that you are looking at the probably extinct Ivorybilled Woodpecker through those binoculars. Learning some of the basic body shapes, behaviors, and markings will help you narrow your search through



PHOTO BY RYAN SANDERSON

*Northern Cardinal*

your ID books. New online apps are available for purchase that can help lighten the load of carrying around field guides. Examples of apps include iBird, Audubon Birds, and the Sibley eGuide to Birds.

### Calls

Each bird has its own melodious call, though some birds are exceptional mimics, you can use their characteristic calls to help in identification. Learning bird calls does take dedication and repetition but as the birds you are seeking to identify may be high up in trees or in inaccessible areas it can be an invaluable tool in species identification. We recommend utilizing birding CD's and online resources such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Macauley Library which houses the world's largest archive of nature calls and sounds.

Keep a yearly or life long list of your bird sightings online at eBird.org and watch as your birding record and enjoyment grows with each new birding season!

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## Partners

We believe that the most meaningful and successful conservation efforts come from within our own community. Please support our BIRDINDY partners and use them as resources to further your knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of native plants and wildlife. The following groups have contributed to the success of BIRDINDY initiatives or are working on projects which align with our mission to conserve Indy's native migratory birds. It will take a community effort to protect and promote our wildlife. Check out what other organizations are doing to make Indianapolis more bird-friendly.

- **Amos Butler Audubon**
- **Butler University Center for Urban Ecology**
- **Central Indiana Land Trust**
- **Indy Parks**
- **Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB)**
- **Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS)**
- **Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF)**
- **Wild Birds Unlimited**
- **Environment for the Americas (EFTA)**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

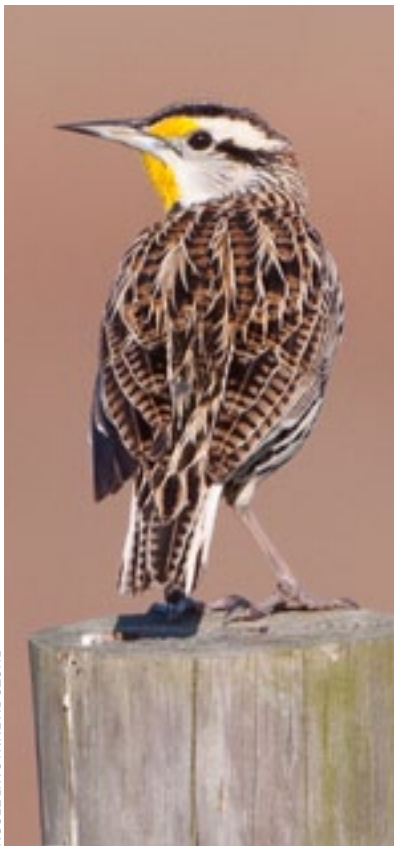


PHOTO BY RYAN SANDERSON

*Eastern Meadowlark*



**NE-03**

**NE-04**

**NE-10**



for an online map of all sites go to:  
<http://goo.gl/maps/lxWSp>

W 56th St

38th St



W 16th St

W 10th St

38th St

Meridian St

16th St

EAGLE CREEK

Michigan St

College Ave

MONON TRAIL

POG

Wa



NORTHEAST MAP



NE-01

NE-02

NE-05

NE-06 to 08

NE-11

NE-09

NE-12

NE-13



Keystone Ave

Binford Blvd

LAWRENCE

38th St

h St

Washington St

FALL CREEK

BLUE'S RUN

## NE-01 Oliver's Woods

**ADDRESS:** Located next to the Keystone at the Crossing shopping area

**CONTACT:** Central Indiana Land Trust

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** *As of this writing, Oliver's Woods is closed to the public; soon it will be open dawn to dusk, year round.*

**AMENITIES:** Hiking trails

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Oliver's Woods is a 52 acre nature preserve with a mixed habitat of woods, savannah and frontage along the White River. These habitats provide diverse ecosystems for viewing a variety of resident and migratory birds.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Warbler, Thrush, and Vireo

## NE-02 Fall Creek Trail at Geist Dam

**ADDRESS:** 10053 Fall Creek Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7416. Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round.

**AMENITIES:** Parking lot available off of Fall Creek Road. Path leads through hardwood forest down to Geist Dam and water's edge.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This 64 acre

property contains a path which leads to Geist dam, then parallels Fall Creek.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** The trail takes you from the small parking lot off Fall Creek Road to the Geist Reservoir Dam and then into the creek's floodplain. The trail dead ends near 79th Street and will require you to retrace your steps for a total 2.5 mile walk. The trail is productive year round due to the presence of the reservoir and Fall Creek. In winter, look for Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and ducks on the water. In summer, look for Eastern Bluebird, Prothonotary Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Parula, and House Wren. Woodpecker populations are experiencing a temporary increase due to the many dead ash trees along the trail.

## NE-03 Marrott Park

**ADDRESS:** 7350 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7416. Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round.

**AMENITIES:** No restrooms available. Parking lot and picnic shelters are on site. There are a series of unpaved trails that run through the wooded park area.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The total park



*Marrott Park*

area is 102 acres. Most of the acreage is a state dedicated nature preserve, and consists primarily of upland hardwoods along a riparian corridor. Ongoing stewardship continues to improve this wildlife habitat area. The area is also known for its views of spring wildflowers.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** In summer, look for Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers, Brown Creeper, Pileated Woodpecker, and Yellow-throated Vireo. In winter, expect White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Winter Wren, and the always active chickadees, titmouses, and nuthatches.

#### NE-04

## Broad Ripple Park

**ADDRESS:** 1550 Broad Ripple Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46220

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7416. Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round.

**AMENITIES:** Parking lot, Family Center, public bathrooms, shelter area, recycling center, White River overlook, boat ramp, playground, and fitness trail on site.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Broad Ripple Park is a 61 acre community park

bordering an oxbow on the White River providing excellent viewing for water birds. There is also 10 acres of open woodland with trails throughout.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Wander the trails to find nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Eastern Kingbird, and Baltimore Oriole, along with permanent resident birds such as woodpeckers. Check by the river for Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers. In migration, check for warblers, sparrows, Winter Wren, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

## NE-05 Skiles Test Nature Park

**ADDRESS:** 6828 Fall Creek Road, Indianapolis, IN 46220

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7416. Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Small parking lot available. No restrooms available. Interpretational plant and wildlife signs are displayed along paved trail.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Skiles Test Nature Park consists of 80.91 acres of wildlife habitat and is a natural resources area. It currently has two miles of trails within the park. The majority of the habitat is upland forest, but the park also contains a 14 acre prairie planting area and a 7 acre successional area.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** The habitat variety attracts many different birds. Take the marked trail from the parking lot and you will first walk through woods that have woodpeckers and chickadees year-round and Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, and Acadian Flycatcher in summer. Before long, you will come to prairie and successional habitat. The area on the east side of the trail attracts American Woodcock and sparrows during migration and Common Yellowthroat and Indigo Bunting in summer. The successional habitat on the west side of the trail has attracted nesting Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat in recent years. The vegetation along the trail can be jumping with birds during migration.

**SITE HISTORY:** The park is named after Skiles Edward Test, who once owned the property. After his death in 1964 the land was given to Indy Parks where it has since been managed for wildlife and recreation.

## NE-06 through 08 Fort Harrison State Park

**ADDRESS:** 5753 Glenn Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46216. Park entrance at 59th St. & Post Rd.

**ENTRANCE FEE:** \$5 for in-state visitors, \$7 for out-of-state visitors

**CONTACT:** (317) 591-0904,



*Delaware Lake, Fort Harrison State Park*

stateparks.in.gov; Indiana Department of Natural Resources

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round.

**AMENITIES:** Modern Restrooms and drinking fountains are available during park hours.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Fort Harrison is a state park operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Sitting on 1,700 acres of mixed use lands, it contains hiking trails, fishing areas with access to Fall Creek, and two national historic districts. This park offers extensive woodland and riparian habitat for birds.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Fort Harrison is an outstanding location to view both migrating and nesting warblers and vireos. Species of interest

include interior forest species such as Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird, and Wood Thrush. Other woodland species, such as tanagers, flycatchers, and woodpeckers also occur here in ample numbers. Great Blue Herons are a common sight along the Fall Creek Waterway and Brown Creepers are permanent residents within the park.

## SITE LOCATIONS

### **NE-06** Delaware Lake

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Delaware Lake attracts waterfowl, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and Eastern Kingbird from spring through late summer. Great Blue Heron are present much of the year. The levee on the south end of the lake

is a good place to find spring and fall migrants and nesting Cedar Waxwing and Yellow Warbler. In May and October the frog pond next to Delaware Lake is a great location to look for sparrows and other migrants.

The Delaware Lake area provides access to Fall Creek Trail and Harrison Trace Trail. The 1.1 mile Fall Creek Trail travels through floodplain forest before terminating at Harrison Trace Trail. In spring and summer, expect Cerulean, Prothonotary, and Yellow-throated Warblers, Northern Parula, Wood Thrush, and Warbling Vireo. Permanent species such as Brown Creeper, woodpeckers, and Carolina Chickadee may be anywhere along the trail. This is a great trail for spring and fall migration when you can find thrushes, kinglets, warblers, and vireos.

Harrison Trace Trail's 2.75 miles are entirely paved and encircle Delaware Lake to the south and Duck Pond to the north. Some of the terrain is rolling and the trail does not meet ADA accessibility standards. As you walk this trail expect to see Scarlet Tanager, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, and Eastern Bluebird.

### **NE-07**

#### **Lawrence Creek Trail**

Along this moderate four-mile hiking trail, expect to see and

hear Kentucky Warbler, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager and many other summer woodland species. In winter, you can expect to find most Indiana woodpeckers including Pileated, as well as the ever-present Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadee. In invasion years, expect to see Red-breasted Nuthatch. There are two trailheads for Lawrence Creek Trail, and each is labeled on the property map. Lawrence Creek Trail is also used by mountain bikers so be alert while on the trail.

### **NE-08 Walnut Plantation**

Although not a named trail, the paved path that runs through this black walnut mono-forest is easily accessible and provides relatively good birding. Birds are much easier seen in these walnut trees in spring since the trees leaf out later than other species. Summer also provides excellent opportunities for birding in this area. Nesting birds include Baltimore and Orchard Orioles (often nesting a few trees apart), Indigo Bunting, Cerulean Warbler, Field Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and many year-round species. Access is from the Walnut Plantation trailhead for Lawrence Creek Trail. The entire area is paved and of even terrain.



Grassy Creek Regional Park

## NE-09 Grassy Creek Regional Park

**ADDRESS:** 10510 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46235. *Note: we recommend birders access the park from the north, off 38th St.*

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7192 Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, basketball court, playground, tennis courts, picnic shelter.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Grassy Creek Park is comprised of two parcels of land totaling 152 acres. The North portion of the park is predominantly wetland and sedge meadow with woods to the west. There are several hiking trails throughout the park, including a biking and walking trail that will connect both parcels in 2014.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Sparrows, Vireos, Ducks, Herons, Sandpipers, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Towhee, Indigo Bunting, and Red Winged Blackbirds

## NE-10 Watson Road Bird Preserve

**ADDRESS:** 900 Watson Road, Indianapolis, IN 46205

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7416, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Street parking, walking path

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Four acre natural resource park established in 1925 provides a quaint inner city sanctuary to several bird and butterfly species. The small park area is planted with tall grasses and wildflowers which provide food and host plants for local wildlife. The trees in the park consist mostly of hackberry, buckeye, and ash.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Although a small site, this preserve offers a relaxing oasis to people and wildlife. The mature trees and planted prairie attract Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Cooper's Hawk. In summer watch for butterflies nectaring at the wildflowers.



*Pogue's Run Art and Nature Park*

### NE-11

## Washington Park

**ADDRESS:** 3130 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7474 Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round.

**AMENITIES:** Parking lot, nature trails, family recreation center, shelters, playgrounds, basketball courts, and an 18 hole disc golf course.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Washington Park is a 128 acre park area on the Near East side of Indianapolis. It contains a six acre prairie, three acre woodland restoration, and a wetland area attracting a variety of native bird species.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Stroll the paved trail or greenspace in summer while you watch for Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Indigo Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and many other species. In fall and winter, expect to find sparrows, including Dark-eyed Junco, foraging on the ground. During migration expect to see a wide variety of birds, including warblers, thrushes, and vireos.

### NE-12

## Pogue's Run Art & Nature Park

**ADDRESS:** 2300 North Dequincy Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7431 Indy Parks.



**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking lot and paths

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This 43 acre park is a natural resource area following the Pogue's Run waterway and has 2.3 miles of trails. The northern portion of the trail is known as the Basin Trail and runs along a 22.5 acre-man made wetland and open water area.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Sparrows, Hawks, Falcons, Ducks, Geese, and Herons. During the breeding season, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret.

### NE-13

## Ellenberger Park

**ADDRESS:** 5301 East St. Clair Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7176 Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

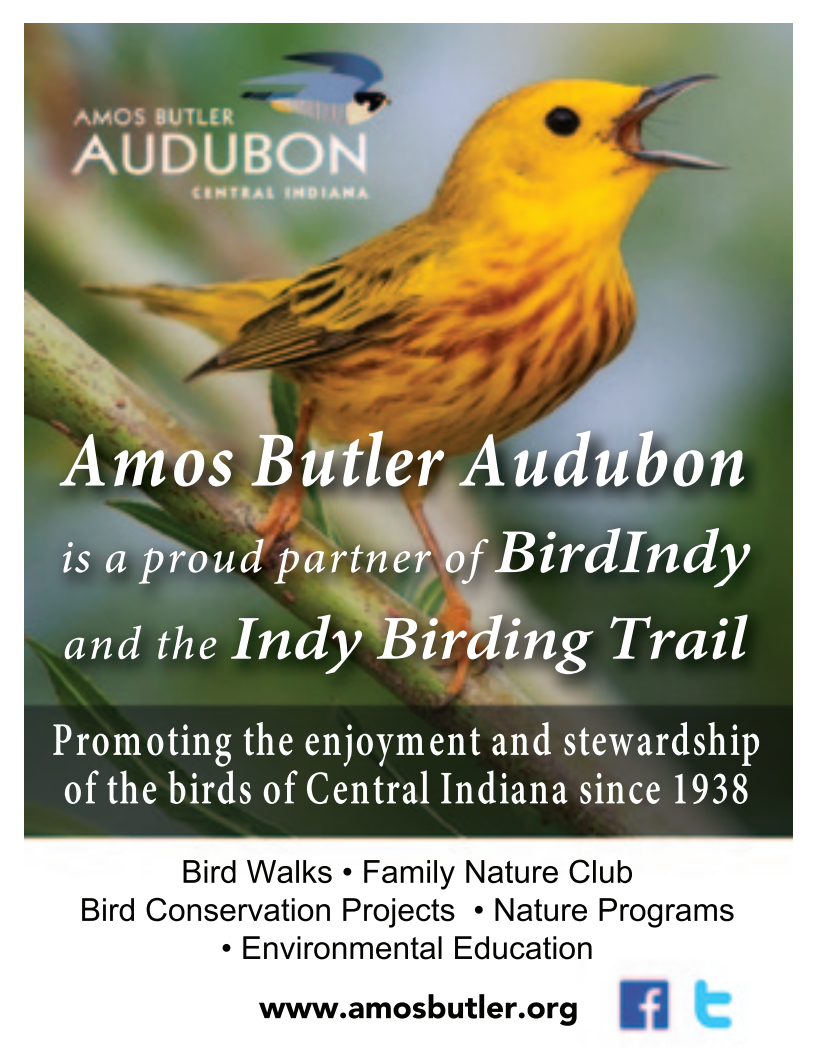
**AMENITIES:** Parking, swimming pool, tennis courts, playgrounds, shelter, volleyball court, and 1.2 mile trail.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Ellenberger Park is a 42 acre park running along the Pleasant Run Greenway. Restoration projects are underway along the riparian corridor to provide migratory wildlife with valuable food resources and to remove harmful invasive plants.



*Ellenberger Park*

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Red Shouldered Hawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow Throated Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, White Breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Throated Warbler, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch.



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CENTRAL INDIANA

*Amos Butler Audubon*  
*is a proud partner of BirdIndy*  
*and the Indy Birding Trail*

Promoting the enjoyment and stewardship  
of the birds of Central Indiana since 1938

Bird Walks • Family Nature Club  
Bird Conservation Projects • Nature Programs  
• Environmental Education

[www.amosbutler.org](http://www.amosbutler.org)





**Saving the best of Central Indiana  
for them and for us**

*We protect Indiana's special landscapes, habitats and  
working lands. Please join us. To learn more, visit  
[www.conservingindiana.org](http://www.conservingindiana.org)*





NW-06



W 86th St

Zionsville Rd

NW-07

NW-01 to 05



EAGLE CREEK RESERVOIR

W 56th St

Michi-

NW-08

Meridian St

NW-09

38th St

38th St

NW-11



W 21st St

NW-10

W 16th St

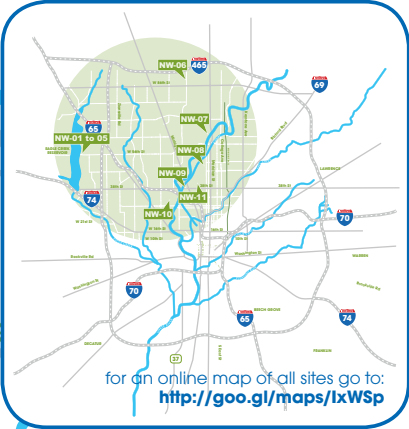
16

W 10th St

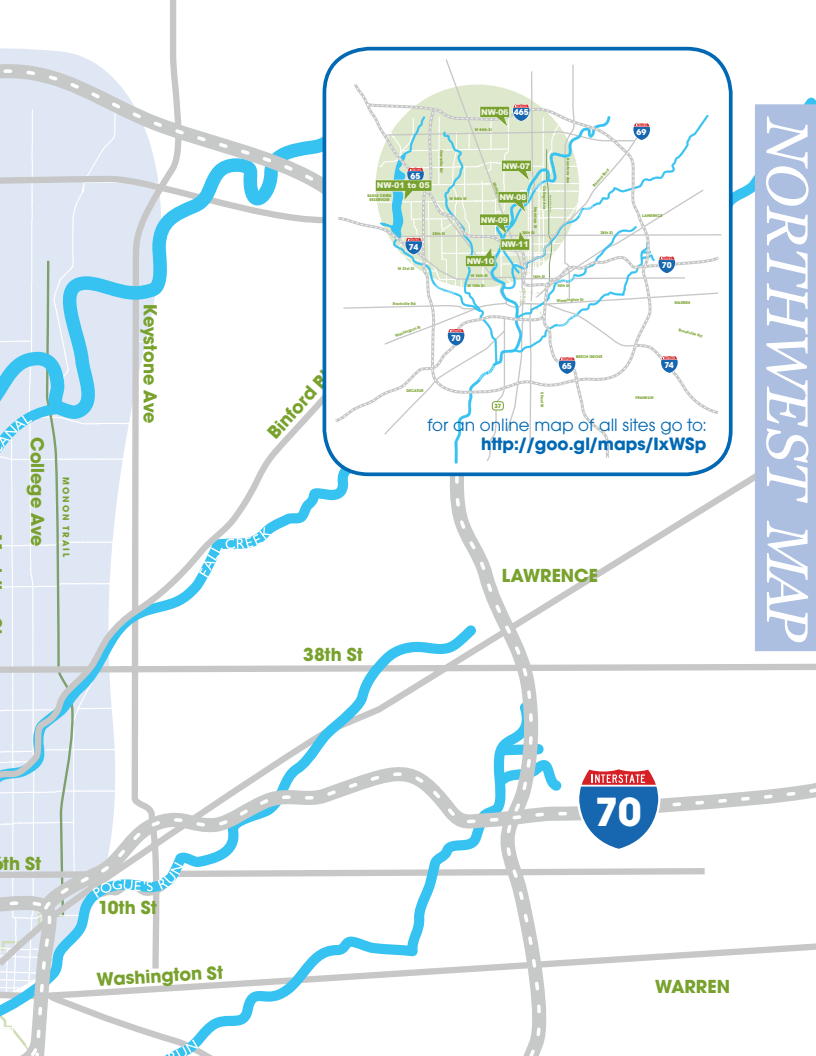
EAGLE CREEK

Rockville Rd

# NORTHWEST MAP



for an online map of all sites go to:  
<http://goo.gl/maps/lxWSp>





*Eagle Creek Park*

### NW-01 through 05

## Eagle Creek Park

**ADDRESS:** 7840 West 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216

**ENTRANCE FEE:** \$5/car, \$3/cyclists or hikers

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7110 Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, hiking trails, Earth Discovery Center, Ornithology Center, marina, boat ramp, beach, shelters and picnic areas, amphitheater, playground, and restrooms

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Eagle Creek Park is the ninth largest city park in the nation containing over 3,900 acres of dry land and almost 1,400 acres of water. More than 260 bird species have been observed since the park opened.

### SITE LOCATIONS

#### NW-01 Eagles Crest Prairie

To access Eagle's Crest Prairie, carefully travel west from the Starling parking area along Wilson Road to the stop sign in .30 miles. Turn left onto Fishback Road and travel .30 miles to the entrance for Eagle's Crest at the bend in the road. If the gate is locked during daylight hours, you can park to the side and walk in on foot. The prairie along the road harbors breeding Henslow's and Field Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, and Indigo Bunting. Closer to the former home, now a rental facility, check for Pine Warbler in the evergreens in spring and summer. More difficult to see than to access, look for the shrubby fields to the southeast of the soccer fields that are hidden by tree lines. In summer, listen for Yellow-breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler in

the fields. In October, check the prairie and fields for sparrows.

### **NW-02** Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary

Scott Starling Sanctuary is located on the west side of the park. Exit at the park's 71st Street gate and turn left onto Lafayette Road at the traffic signal. Travel one mile and turn left onto Traders Lane. Follow the road to one of two parking areas. The first is a gravel circular drive in about .5 miles. Parking here, if the gate is open, allows one to take the trail to viewing spots on the north end of the reservoir. In summer, Prothonotary Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and swallows can be viewed from the observation platforms. An unmarked spot a bit further past the platforms allows a view of the shallow north end of the reservoir. If water levels are down in late summer, expect shorebirds, herons, and egrets. Shorebirds seen from this location include Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Avocet along with Killdeer and other expected species.

A few hundred yards past the first parking area is parking space along the road for about four cars. Take the trail a short distance along a shrubby field of the Scott Starling Sanctuary before entering the Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve after crossing the bridge. Side trails into the shrubby fields are often wet and overgrown.

In summer, expect Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Warbling Vireo. In spring migration, look for warblers along the short trail before the bridge and in October check for sparrows. Northern Rough-Winged Swallow and Eastern Phoebe usually nest at the bridge. Trails through the nature preserve provide the opportunity in late spring and summer to hear, but not often see, Cerulean, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. The trail to the right after the bridge will take you up to Eagle's Crest where you can access additional shrubby fields and prairie.

### **NW-03** Ornithology Center

The Ornithology Center should be one of your first stops at Eagle Creek Park. It is located very close to the park's 71st Street entrance. The center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. most days and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Displays, reference books, a bird-feeding area, trail information, and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are available to make your visit more enjoyable and productive. Check the feeder area for great looks at more common birds year-round and look for migratory birds attracted to the water feature during migration. Both the inside viewing room and adjacent

outdoor platform provide views of the “nature sanctuary”, a former gravel pit separated from the reservoir by a coffer dam. Scopes are present to help view distant ducks, geese, cormorants, gulls, and terns. The large rock in the nature sanctuary serves as a resting spot for many bird species as well as turtles. Bald Eagles, which nest on or near the property, may be seen year-round from the Ornithology Center.

The mixed conifer-deciduous woods outside of the center attracts migrants such as tanagers, warblers, and grosbeaks and is used for breeding by Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cooper’s Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. From the Ornithology Center, you can take the unmarked trail to the north (paved) or the south (unpaved) to do a complete 2-mile loop around the nature sanctuary by utilizing the coffer dam. During summer expect Willow Flycatcher, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Yellow Warbler, and Tree Swallows. In winter look for juncos, sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Mockingbird, and Bald Eagles looking for a meal of duck or coot. This loop trail is relatively flat but there is a short stretch on the south end requiring uphill/downhill walking that might be difficult for those with moderate walking difficulties.

## **NW-04** Ice Skating Pond

The cattails and quiet waters of the Ice Skating Pond and the neighboring two ponds are a hotspot for numerous species. From the Marina, turn left/north at the T intersection onto the park’s main road. Take the first road to the right and make another right at the four-way stop. You will be traveling east for approximately .25 mile to the first paved road to the right/south. Take the road a short distance to the parking lot. The Ice Skating Pond will be directly in front of you. The best times to visit are in May and September. Walk around the pond to find warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, and flycatchers in the trees and shrubs. Keep an eye on the water and amidst the cattails for Virginia Rail, Sora, American Bittern, Least bittern, and Common Gallinule. In summer look for Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, and Wood Duck. In winter, check for Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, sparrows, and hawks.

Walk the closed road to the south for Kentucky Warbler from May through July. In the second half of May, expect to hear Connecticut Warbler and other migrants in the shrubs along the roadbed. If you have time, explore other trails in this area to add additional species to your list. Expect orioles, Indigo Bunting, White-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Bluebird.





*Daubenspeck Community Nature Park*

### **NW-05** Marina

The Marina is a must-visit location if you are able to arrive within the first three hours of daylight during spring migration in late April and May. It is located about halfway between the 71st and 56th Street entrances. Driving south along the main road from the Ornithology Center look for signage for the Marina/Earth Discovery Center/Peace Learning Center, which will be the first road to the west. Drive straight ahead on the road until it ends at the marina parking lot. Bird the marina “peninsula” as well as the parking lot area. It’s not uncommon for there to be as many as two dozen warbler species on a good morning in addition to Rose-breasted Grosbeak, flycatchers, waxwings, and tanagers. Even Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen once at the marina. Typically, birds have dispersed by

mid-morning. In early spring, late fall, and winter, the marina is a good place to look for waterfowl if you have a scope. Occasionally, scoters and Long-tailed Duck make an appearance along with more common ducks, geese, and grebes.

### **NW-06**

## **Daubenspeck Community Nature Park**

**ADDRESS:** 8900 Ditch Road,  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

**CONTACT:** [daubpark@hotmail.com](mailto:daubpark@hotmail.com),  
volunteer-run nature park.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn  
to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, self-serve  
information kiosks, observation deck,  
trails, boardwalks, and benches

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The park is approximately 22 acres and consists of a 14-acre tall-grass prairie, 1 acre of emergent wetlands, 7 acres of forested riparian habitat and associated old-field successional areas. DCNP has been in the process of removing invasive exotic species, replanting natives and improving the wildlife habitat since the park's inception in 2006.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Sparrows, Finches, and various common migrant birds. There are many nesting birds in the park, such as Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Raptors often doing flyovers and hunting in the park include Red-tailed Hawk and Coopers Hawk. Northern Cardinals and Catbirds dominate the edge between the field and forest. Typical Indiana woodland species include Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers. There are also a broad mix of woodpeckers including Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker. Indigo Buntings can be found singing high in the trees along the field edges

## **NW-07** Holliday Park

**ADDRESS:** 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7180, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, nature center with restrooms, play area, historic ruins, and 3.5 miles of walking trails.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This park is situated on 94 acres of land with a diverse landscape of wetlands, prairie, and steep ravines, and riparian corridor along the White River. This habitat diversity has allowed for the spotting of over 200 bird species. Spend the day enjoying the forest, planted prairie, and native plantings maintained within the park and you are sure to see and hear an array of native wildlife. Be sure to stop into the park's Nature Center for interactive displays, information on upcoming events, and the chance to talk with knowledgeable Naturalists about which birds are being spotted within the park.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Birding is productive year round. In summer, look for Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Cooper's Hawk, Scarlet Tanager, and Yellow-throated Vireo. In migration, expect many warbler species, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Winter Wren, and blackbirds. Year-round species include Brown Creeper, Barred Owl, and Song



*Holcomb Gardens*

Sparrow. The Nature Center's feeding area is wonderful and attracts many bird species including Pine Siskin in most winters. During winter, American Robins are likely to be near the river where they can more easily find food.

## **NW-08** Holcomb Gardens at Butler University

**ADDRESS:** 4600 Sunset Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46208 (Butler University campus)

**CONTACT:** (317) 940-8000, Butler University

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Street parking

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Holcomb Gardens consists of more than 20 acres of formal gardens with a mix of native and horticultural specimen species. The site is adjacent to the

City's Central Canal and is accessible via bridge from the Tow Path.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Warblers and Thrushes during migration. Frontage along the Central Canal allows the opportunity to see ducks and herons. Common species such as chickadees and woodpeckers are often found in the woods and gardens.

## **NW-09** IMA Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park: 100 Acres

**ADDRESS:** 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46208

**CONTACT:** (317) 923-1331

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, restrooms, trails, wheelchair and stroller accessibility

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Adjacent to the IMA resides 100 acres of park composed of woodlands, wetlands, meadows, and a 35 acre lake. The nature park is home to more than 100 bird species and a landscape design which seeks to improve the habitat with native plantings and removal of invasive species. Stop by the Ruth Lilly Visitors Pavilion to learn about IMA's participation in "Lights Out Indy."



*IMA's 100 Acres*

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Walk the park's trails through artwork as you look for Northern Parula, Pileated Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole in summer. Stop by Lake Terrace to watch for Killdeer, Double-crested Cormorant, and Great Blue Heron. Looking skyward may reward you with a Bald Eagle or Osprey patrolling the White River. During winter, expect woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

## **NW-10** **Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab at Marian University**

**ADDRESS:** 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222 (Marian University campus)

**CONTACT:** (317) 955-6028, David Benson [www.marian.edu/ecolab](http://www.marian.edu/ecolab)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab at Marian University contains 55 acres of high quality bird habitat that was originally designed by Jens Jensen in 1911 for the estate of Indy 500 and Allison Engine founder, James Allison. Because of the genius of Jensen, who started with a farm field and used all native plants in his design, the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab is not only of national historic importance, but also one of the oldest intact environmental restoration projects in the world. With two miles of trail just minutes from downtown, this site provides a diversity of habitats in a small area including

upland bluff, riparian, lowland forest, and 20 acres of wetlands.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Wood Duck, Green Heron, Common Nighthawk, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Warblers such as Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm, Blackpoll, Connecticut, Mourning and Canada, Sparrows such as Tree, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned, Pileated Woodpeckers and Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes.

## **NW-11** Crown Hill Cemetery

**ADDRESS:** 700 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208. Entrances are located on Clarendon, just north of 38th Street and at 34th Street and Boulevard Place (3400 Boulevard Place).

**CONTACT:** (317) 925-3800; 920-4165

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open daily year round. October 15th-March 31st: 8 am to 6 pm, April 1st – October 14th: 8 am to 8 pm.

**AMENITIES:** Free parking, guided tours available with reservation, Fifty Trees of Indiana self-guided tree tour and map, picnic areas, walking paths.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Crown Hill Cemetery is listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places and provides an urban oasis for migratory birds. A modern cemetery and urban forest, the cemetery spans 555 acres of land making it the largest green space within the 465 beltway. Containing over 150 tree species, an amazing 4,156 inventoried trees can be found on the property supporting a variety of bird and wildlife species within the city. The cemetery contains a 60 acre tract of forest at the very north end where entry is prohibited. Please be respectful to the property owners and limit bird viewing to the perimeter of this wooded area.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Year-round species include woodpeckers, American Crow, Red-tailed Hawk, and Carolina Chickadee. Nesters include Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Great-crested Flycatcher. Driving or walking the roads from fall through spring will turn up Dark-eyed Junco and American Tree Sparrow foraging on the ground. In winter, keep an eye out for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Purple Finch, and, if you are very lucky, White-winged Crossbill. Visiting James Whitcomb Riley's gravesite provides a commanding view of the surrounding area and allows the viewing of migrating birds, including hawks, vultures, and eagles.



INTERSTATE  
**74**

38th St

W 21st St

W 16th St

16

W 10th St

EAGLE CREEK

Rockville Rd

Washington St

INTERSTATE  
**70**

WHITE RIVER

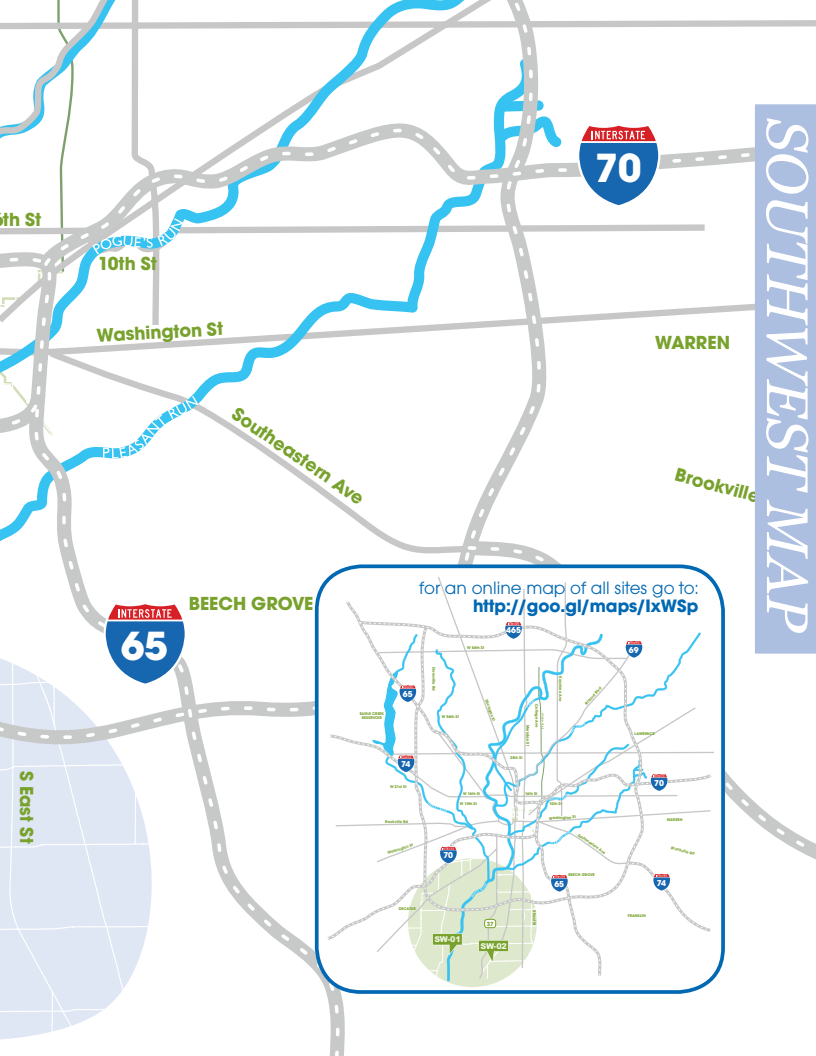
DECATUR

**37**

**SW-01**

**SW-02**

# SOUTHWEST MAP



for an online map of all sites go to:  
<http://goo.gl/maps/lxWSp>



S East St

10th St

Washington St

Southeastern Ave

WARREN

Brookville

BEECH GROVE

SW-01  
SW-02

**SW-01****Southwestway Park**

**ADDRESS:** 8400 Mann Road, Indianapolis, IN 46221

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7056, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, shelter, play structure, trails

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** A 310 acre regional park, Southwestway owes its defining natural features of the White River and Mann Hill to the last glacial period. Mann Hill at 828 feet above sea level is the second highest point in Marion County. The park's trails, some of which are shared with mountain bikers, meander through the floodplain and upland areas.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Start at the ball diamond parking lot and take the paved path to the north to find breeding species such as Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Downy Woodpecker. In winter, look for sparrows along this same path. If you are adventuresome, head east out of the parking lot to one of two trails that will take you to the forested floodplain. Mountain bikes share some trails so be careful. In the floodplain in summer expect Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers, Wood

Thrush, Wood Duck, and Barred Owl. In winter, the floodplain is a place to look for Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrow.

**SW-02****Glenns Valley Nature Park**

**ADDRESS:** 8015 South Bluff Road, Indianapolis, IN 46217

**CONTACT:** (317) 881-7429, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, playground, and walking trails.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This park sits on 30 acres of land with walking trails leading along tall grass prairie and through hardwood habitats.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-throated Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch and American Goldfinch.





*Glens Valley Nature Park*



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College Ave  
Meridian St

38th St

16th St

POGUE'S  
10th St

Washi

Rockville Rd

Washington St

INTERSTATE  
70

SE-03

INTERSTATE  
65

DECATUR

37

S East St

WHITE RIVER

PLEASANT

# SOUTHEAST MAP



LAWRENCE

38th St



ngton St

WARREN

SE-02

SE-01

Brookville Rd



BEECH GROVE



SE-06

FRANKLIN

SE-05

SE-04



**SE-01****Paul Ruster Park**

**ADDRESS:** 11300 East Prospect Street, Indianapolis, IN 46214

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-0143, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This park is comprised of 82 acres of diverse habitat including a riparian forest, high-quality upland woods, a pond, wet woods, and a constructed prairie.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** A variety of habitats make this a productive birding spot year-round. Look for sparrows, such as Lincoln's and Swamp, during migration in April and October and warblers in May and September and October. Nesting species include Hairy Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Brown Thrasher. In winter, check along Buck Creek for Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

**SE-02****Raymond Park**

**ADDRESS:** 8300 East Raymond Street, Indianapolis, IN 46239

**CONTACT:** (317) 862-6876, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Wetlands, Prairie Lands, 0.75 mile trail

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Raymond Park is a 35.8 acre city park with a high quality wetland prairie restoration area. It also contains a high quality wood lot which provides homes for numerous birds and mammals.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Wooded and wet prairie habitats make this a worthwhile birding destination. In spring and summer, expect Eastern Bluebird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, and Field Sparrow. Look for a variety of sparrows using the prairie during migration in April and October. Overhead, you may see Red-tailed Hawk year-round and Turkey Vulture in spring through fall.

**SE-03 Garfield Park**

**ADDRESS:** 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7221, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, family center, arts center, pagoda shelter, sunken gardens and conservatory, corporate shelter, sports fields, playground, shelters and paved trails.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Consisting



### Gray Park

of 123 acres, Garfield Park was established in 1881. It contains an art center and sunken gardens/conservatory. Pleasant Run and Bean Creek converge in Garfield Park and significant restoration is occurring along these riparian corridors.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Sparrows, Swallows, Woodpeckers and multiple species of warblers.

### SE-04 Gray Park

**ADDRESS:** Southport Road & Sherman Drive

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-PARK Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk

**AMENITIES:** Natural resource area, trails

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Gray Park is 7.5 acres of land with trails running through a riparian corridor it mostly consists of shrubby prairie bordering a wooded area along Buck Creek.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Coopers Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Downy Woodpecker, White Breasted Nuthatch, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse.

### SE-05 Franklin Township Park

**ADDRESS:** 8801 East Edgewood Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46239

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7806, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round



*Franklin Township Park*

**AMENITIES:** Parking, sheltered pavilion with seating, walking trails, open prairie and wetland

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** This park contains a pond filled with white water lilies, prairie, and wooded area with walking trail.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Saunter around the pond in spring and summer to observe Mallard, Eastern Kingbird, and possibly Wood Duck and other waterbirds. In open areas, look for Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, and American Robin. Walking through the woods will turn up Eastern Wood-Pewee, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and House Wren.

## SE-06

### Southeastway Park

**ADDRESS:** 5624 South Carroll Road, Indianapolis, IN 46163

**CONTACT:** (317) 861-5167, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, nature center, restrooms, playground, multi-use paved and unpaved trails, shelters and picnic sites.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Southeastway is a 188 acre regional nature park with a mix of habitat areas including floodplain woods, successional fields, prairie, wetland, and pond.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** A paved trail meanders throughout the park and offers good exercise and good birding. In spring and summer watch for Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, and Eastern Towhee. In winter, the paved trail is a place to look for sparrows, woodpeckers, and cardinals. Venturing on a trail near the creek in summer will reward you with Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher. Feeders at the Nature Center draw in common species year-round and occasionally Purple Finch and Pine Siskin in winter. The park is an outstanding place to look for migrating warblers in spring and fall. Looking skyward at any time of the year may reward you with a hawk.

**NATURE IS FOR THE BIRDS...**

*and the bees!*

BENEFICIAL INSECTS, LIKE HONEY BEES, POLLINATE AS THEY GET THEIR NOURISHMENT FROM BLOOMING NATIVE PLANTS, SUCH AS THE NEW ENGLAND ASTER.

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**EAGLE CREEK  
RESERVOIR**

**38th St**



**W 21st St**

**W 16th St**

**W 10th St**

EAGLE CREEK

for an online map of all sites go to:  
<http://goo.gl/maps/lxWSp>



WHITE RIVER



CENTER MAP



Michigan St

Meridian St

College Ave

MONON TRAIL

Keystone Ave

38th St

38th St

CE-04

CE-03

16th St

10th St

CE-01

CE-02

Washington St

Market St

Washington St

Southeastern Ave

PLEASANT RUN

POGUE'S RUN

BEECH GROVE





*White River State Park*

## **CE-01** White River State Park

**ADDRESS:** 801 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**CONTACT:** (800) 665-9056 [www.WhiteRiverStatePark.org](http://www.WhiteRiverStatePark.org)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking garage, and above ground parking, visitor center, brochures, concert listings, maps, year round programming information, drinking fountains, vending options, restrooms, Eiteljorg Museum, IMAX® Theater, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, Farm Bureau Insurance Lawn at White River State Park

(Concert Series), NCAA® Hall of Champions & Headquarters, Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, Historic Military Park, segway tours, bike and boat rentals, and Wishard Growing Places Indy Slow Food Garden, and more.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** White River State Park is over 250 acres and Indiana's only urban state park located in downtown Indianapolis. It contains open green spaces, urban gardens, native landscaping and a Waterfront Walkway along the White River. A scenic outcrop along the White River overlooks a newly developed cross-country arena where connected trails to Indy Greenways Trails lead through tall river prairie grasses down to the waterfront.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** The best birding locations at this unordinary state park are Military Park, the pedestrian bridge, and the White River Wapahani Trail sections on either side of the river. Expect to see Golden-crowned kinglet, Brown Creeper, warblers, and other songbirds during migration at Military Park. The pedestrian bridge and trails along the river provide views of Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Cliff Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and American Goldfinch. In summer, watch for Black-crowned Night Heron at dusk and keep an eye on the sky for Bald Eagles which nest nearby.

## CE-02 Soldiers and Sailors Monument

**ADDRESS:** 1 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**CONTACT:** (317) 232-7615

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Civil War Museum, Gift Shop and Observation Deck open Wednesday-Sunday from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM May to October, Friday-Sunday from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM November to April, grounds open dawn to dusk year round

**AMENITIES:** Street parking, Free Admission to Civil War Museum (located in the South West Quadrant), Gift Shop and Observation Deck (located in South Quadrant)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Located in the center of downtown Indianapolis this 284 foot Monument made of Indiana Oolitic limestone was constructed during 1889 to 1901 and was dedicated in 1902. The Monument commemorates the valor of Indiana's Veterans of all wars prior to World War I.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Peregrine Falcons have been nesting in downtown Indianapolis since 1995. Adults are year-round residents and can often be seen perched on Market Tower (look for the red key at the top of the building), where the nest box is located, or other tall buildings. Chicks hatch in May and spend the summer growing and learning how



*Soldiers and Sailors Monument*

to fly and hunt. By fall, the adults chase the young away as they would otherwise compete for the same food and nesting spot. Peregrines are powerful fliers that snatch other birds out of the air for food. A scattering of a flock of Rock Pigeons is a sign that a Peregrine may be around. Besides pigeons, Peregrines eat a remarkably wide array of bird species.

## CE-03 Spades Park

**ADDRESS:** 1800 Nowland Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46201

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7463, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Shelter, play structure and chimney swift tower.



### Spades Park

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Designated as a newly created bird sanctuary, Spades Park is being managed to promote native plants and wildlife in a 31 acre park along Pogue's Run Waterway. A 2.5 acre short grass prairie in the park will provide habitat for ground dwelling species.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Spades Park, as well as Brookside Park to the east, lies along the banks of Pogue's Run, one of Indianapolis' important waterways. In summer, walk along the paved path or the grass to find Warbling Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, and Carolina Wren amongst the permanent resident birds. Look to the sky in hopes of seeing Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Chimney Swift. During migration, look for warblers and sparrows along the wooded banks of Pogue's Run.

### CE-04

## Brookside Park

**ADDRESS:** 3500 Brookside Parkway South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46218

**CONTACT:** (317) 327-7179, Indy Parks

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Open dawn to dusk, year round

**AMENITIES:** Parking, recreational facilities including a family center and disc-golf course.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Brookside Park is on 108 acres of wooded green space in between Spades Park and Forest Manor Park, all along Pogue's Run.

**BIRDS TO WATCH:** Brookside Park, as well as Spades Park to the west, lies along the banks of Pogue's Run, one of Indianapolis' important waterways. In summer, walk along the paved path or the grass to find Yellow-throated Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Chipping Sparrow, and Red-eyed Vireo. Listen for the "sweet-sweet-sweet" song of the Prothonotary Warbler which occasionally nests along the waterway. Look to the sky in hopes of seeing Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Chimney Swift. During migration, look for warblers and sparrows along the wooded banks of Pogue's Run and in winter check the grass for sparrows.

★ ★ ★  
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FOUNDATION**

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Did you know Indianapolis has more acreage honoring veterans than any other US city and is second only to Washington DC in the number of Veteran's Monuments? Located in the heart of the State of Indiana and covering 24 acres of downtown Indianapolis, the Indiana War Memorials is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark District. Including two Museums located at the Indiana War Memorial and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the American Legion Mall and the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Monument on the Canal, the Indiana War Memorials are open to the public with FREE admission.

**Indiana War  
Memorial**

51 East Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Wednesday-Sunday  
9:00 am-5:00 pm



**Soldiers  
and Sailors  
Monument**

Monument Circle  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Wednesday-Sunday  
10:30 am-5:30 pm

[www.indianawarmemorials.org](http://www.indianawarmemorials.org)







Grassy Creek Park

Wetland, sedge meadow and wooded habitat provide refuge to many migratory birds. Expect sparrows, terns and egrets, shorebirds, flycatchers and warblers.

Indy Birding Trail  
Site NE-09  
[www.indy.gov/birdindy](http://www.indy.gov/birdindy)

