The rolling hills, dense tree canopy, and limestone outcroppings are fundamental parts of the culture of this community. Dreams blossom among the towering tulip trees and spirits are rejuvenated on the waters of Monroe Lake. But life is about balance: it's not all meditations in nature, it's also action. Bike the trails, take a few swings on the golf course, or cheer for the Hoosiers during a home game (a participatory activity, to be sure).

LAKES

GRIFFY LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

109-acre lake and over 10 miles of natural trail. No swimming. Non-motorized boats or electric trolling motors only. 3300 N. Headley Rd.; 812-349-3732; bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

LAKE LEMON

1,650-acre lake with marina, boat ramp, and swimming beach. 10 miles east of Bloomington on State Rd. 45 North, 7599 N. Tunnel Rd.; 812-334-0233; lakelemon.org

MONROE LAKE

10,750-acre lake with boating, swimming, hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing, plus programs and special events. *Monroe Lake Office: 4850 S. State Rd. 446; 812-837-9546:*

Paynetown Activity Center & Naturalist's Office: 812-837-9967;

in.gov/dnr/parklake/2954.htm facebook.com/monroelake

MARINAS & BOAT RENTALS

GRIFFY LAKE BOATHOUSE

Rent canoes, kayaks, and rowboats. Ramp available for privately owned nonmotorized boats. No swimming. 3300 N. Headley Rd.; 812-349-3732; bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

PARADISE BOAT RENTAL

The boat you need to complete your family "staycation." At Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina; 800-824-BOAT(2628); fourwindslakeside.com

LAKE MONROE BOAT RENTAL

Pontoons/slides, ski boats, jet skis, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, and SUPs. Paynetown State Recreation Area; 812-837-9909; lakemonroeboatrental.com

FORESTS & WILDERNESS AREAS

BEANBLOSSOM BOTTOMS

A bottomland hardwood forest with unusual species; great for bird watching. Accessible from Bottom Rd. & Woodall Rd.; 812-336-5382; nature.org/indiana

CEDAR BLUFF NATURE PRESERVE

Challenging terrain and scenic views make it a Hoosier favorite. *Just off Ketcham Rd.;* 317-951-8818; nature.org/indiana

CHARLES C. DEAM WILDERNESS AREA

13,000-acre protected wilderness area for camping and hiking in solitude. Accessible from State Rd. 446; 812-275-5987; www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

202,000 acres with miles of trails for hiking, biking, camping, and more. Access from State Rd. 446; 812-275-5987; www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier



LEONARD SPRINGS NATURE PARK

95.5-acre park with caves (no admission), springs, wetland, and one-mile loop trail. 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.; 812-349-3700

MORGAN-MONROE STATE FOREST

24,000-acre forest with camping, hunting, and three lakes for fishing. 6220 Forest Rd.: 765-342-4026; in.gov/dnr

YELLOWWOOD STATE FOREST

Features a 133-acre lake, fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting. 772 Yellowwood Lake Rd.; 812-988-7945; in.gov/dnr



BIRDING

MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The restle unit is a 78-acre refuge with great bird watching. Accessible from Bottom Rd. & Woodall Rd.; 812-522-4352; fws.gov/refuge/muscatatuck

STILLWATER-NORTH FORK WATERFOWL RESTING AREA

Great bird watching in Monroe Lake area. Just east of Bloominaton off State Rd. 46; 812-349-2800; in.gov/dnr

HUNTING & FISHING

For specific information on areas that are available to the public for hunting and fishing in the Bloomington area, please contact the Bloomington Visitors Center at 800-800-0037. For current state regulations on hunting and fishing, see the Indiana Department of Natural Resources website at in.gov/dnr.

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CAMPGROUNDS

JELLYSTONE PARK AT LAKE MONROE

A family-oriented resort with RV camping, cabins, water zone, pools, and activities. 9396 S. Strain Ridge Rd.; 812-824-3322; lakemonroejellystone.com

HARDIN RIDGE STATE RECREATION AREA

Boat ramp, RV and primitive camping, hiking, beach, and shower facilities. 6464 Hardin Ridge Rd.; 812-837-9453; recreation.gov

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

Primitive camping throughout the forest, plus limited RV camping. Accessible from State Rd. 446; 812-275-5987; www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier

LAKE MONROE VILLAGE

RV hookups, cabins, and resort amenities for the whole family. 8107 S. Fairfax Rd.; 812-824-CAMP(2267); lakemonroevillage.com

PAYNETOWN STATE RECREATION AREA

Boat ramp, RV and primitive camping, hiking, beach, marina, and shower facilities. 4850 State Rd. 446; 812-837-9490 or 812-837-9546; indiana.reserveworld.com

TOURS & OUTFITTERS

BLUESPRING CAVERNS PARK

Explore the heart of our natural underground world by boat. 1459 Blue Spring Caverns Rd.; 812-279-9471; bluespringcaverns.com

INDIGO BIRDING TOURS

Customized tours to the beautiful natural areas in south-central Indiana. 812-679-8978; indigobirding.com

IU OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

IUOA is Indiana's comprehensive outdoor equipment outfitter and trip provider. 1900 E. Tenth St., Eigenmann Hall, Room 020; 812-855-2231; imu.indiana.edu/iuoa

NATURAL BLOOMINGTON

Sharing Southern Indiana's natural beauty through image, prose, and ecotourism. 812-929-2430; naturalbloomington.com

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Offering a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs. Call for a complete schedule.

Offices: 401 N. Morton St., Suite 250; 812-349-3700; bloomington.in.gov/parks

MONROE COUNTY

Providing several parks, trails, and unique recreation facilities.

Offices: 501 N. Morton St., Suite 100; 812-349-2800; mcparksandrec.org



BIKING & WALKING TRAILS

B-LINE TRAIL

3.1-mile paved trail through downtown Bloomington; no motorized vehicles. *Downtown Bloomington; 812-349-3700; bloomington.in.gov/parks*

BLOOMINGTON RAIL TRAIL

2-mile gravel trail with multiple trailheads; no motorized vehicles. *Trailheads at* W. Country Club Rd. and Church Ln.; 812-349-3700; bloomington.in.gov/parks

CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

2.4-mile paved trail with multiple trailheads; no motorized vehicles. *Trailhead at W. Country Club Rd.; 812-349-3700; bloomington.in.gov/parks*

WAPEHANI MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

Nearly 10 miles of trails. Sign the waiver before riding. 2800 W. Wapehani Rd.; 812-349-3736; bloomington.in.gov/parks

SPORTS & RECREATION

IU Sports Facilities:

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

The best athletic competitions in central Indiana. Check the calendar or website for current schedules. 866-IU-SPORTS (487-7678); IUHoosiers.com

ASSEMBLY HALL & COOK HALL

Headquarters for the men's and women's basketball teams year round. 1001 E. 17th St.

BILL ARMSTRONG STADIUM

Home of Indiana soccer and the famous Little 500 bike race. 1606 N. Fee Ln.

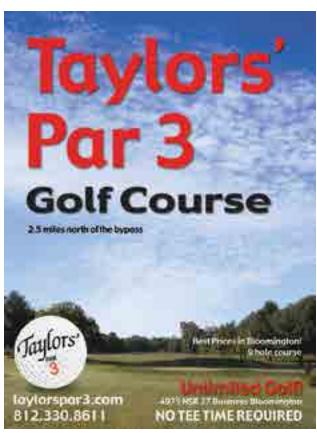
HAUGH TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

One of the country's finest outdoor track and field facilities. 1606 N. Fee Ln.

MEMORIAL STADIUM

The home of IU Football and birthplace for Indiana traditions. 1001 E. 17th St.







STUDENT RECREATIONAL SPORTS CENTER

Strength and cardio areas, Olympic pool, multiple courts, track, and group exercise spaces. Guest passes available. 1601 Law Ln.; 812-855-7772; iurecsports.org

TENNIS CENTER

Indoor tennis membership facility serving students, faculty, and staff. 1833 N. Fee Ln., North of Assembly Hall; 812-855-5750; indiana.edu/~tnscntr

WILDERMUTH INTRAMURAL CENTER

Strength and cardio areas, Olympic pool, multiple courts, track, and group exercise spaces. Guest passes available. 1025 E. 7th St.; 812-855-5222; iurecsports.org

Community Recreation Facilities: FRANK SOUTHERN ICE ARENA

Open October through March with public skating daily. Admission charged. 2100 S. Henderson St.; 812-349-3741; bloomington.in.gov/parks

TWIN LAKES RECREATION CENTER

Sports, recreation, and fitness facility for members and day users. 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.; 812-349-3720; bloomington.in.gov/TLRC

UPPER CASCADES SKATE PARK

Concrete ramps, rails, and other terrain for use by skateboards and in-line skaters. 2602 N. Kinser Pike, south of Cascades Golf Course; 812-349-3712; bloomington.in.gov/parks

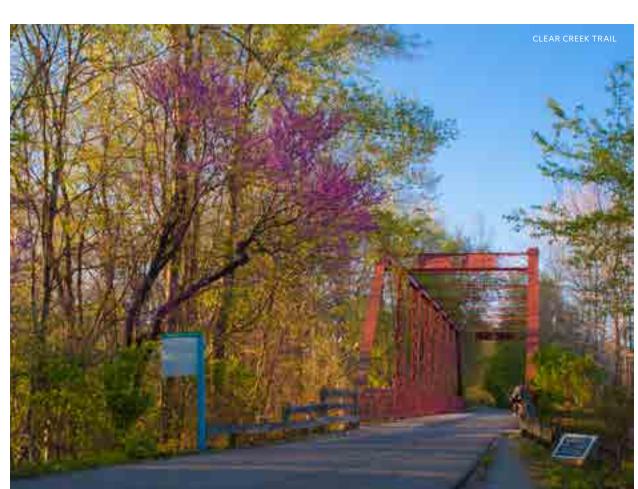
GOLF

CASCADES GOLF COURSE

A 27-hole course that's fun, fair, and fast to play. 3550 N. Kinser Pike; 812-349-3764; bloomington.in.gov/cascades

EAGLE POINTE GOLF RESORT

Combining food, family, friends, and fun. Play. Dine. Stay. 2250 E. Pointe Rd.; 812-824-4040; eaglepointe.com



INDIANA UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE

Challenging 18-hole course for all levels. Open to the public year round. 1350 45/46 Bypass; 812-855-7543; golfiu.com

TAYLORS' PAR 3

Our family-owned course welcomes all ages and skill levels. 4975 N. State Rd. 37 Business; 812-330-8611; taylorspar3.com

SWIMMING & WATER PARKS

BRYAN PARK POOL

Pool and waterslides open Memorial Day through Labor Day. 1020 S. Woodlawn Ave.; 812-349-3780; bloomington.in.gov/parks

IU OUTDOOR POOL

Ten-lane, Olympic-size pool, separate diving well, instructional pool. 1833 N. Fee Ln.; 812-855-9584; indiana.edu/~iuop

JELLYSTONE PARK AT LAKE MONROE

New water zone with slides and sprays, plus swimming pools. 9396 S. Strain Ridge Rd.; 812-824-3322; lakemonroejellystone.com

KARST FARM PARK SPLASH PAD

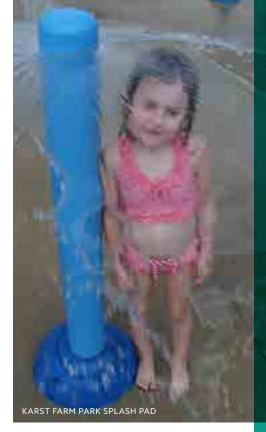
Zero-depth water features that are fun for the entire family. Free! 2450 S. Endwright Rd.; 812-349-2800; mcparksandrec.org

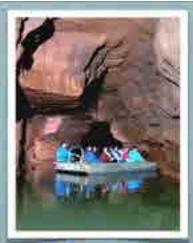
MILLS POOL

Activity pool for small children, water basketball, and waterslide. 1100 W. 14th St.;812-349-3741; bloomington.in.gov/parks

SWIMMING BEACHES

See lake listings for directions Monroe Lake: Paynetown SRA, Fairfax SRA and Hardin Ridge Recreation Area Lake Lemon: Riddle Point Park









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Explore America's longest navigable underground river abourd our custom electric tour boats, enjoy our 1/2 mile nature trail surrounding Indiana's largest sinkbole, prospect for gemstones at the Mystry River Gemstone Mine, shop our unique gift shop in the Colglazier Visitor Center....enjoy the day.

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