

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. MODERATE — 1.5 miles. Starts at the main boat ramp and goes around the south shore of the peninsula to the Payne Shelter. You will pass the 1800's Payne Cemetery, Miami Vista, She-Qui-Oh Vista ("Lean Raccoon") and three scenic overlooks of the lake. The trail returns you, near the campground store.
2. MODERATE — 1.3 miles. The beach trail starts just north of the campground store. The trail passes the Tomahawk Ravine and the Arrowhead Vista. Hikers will see areas of second growth, mature forest and steep ravines before reaching the swimming beach.
3. MODERATE — 1.1 miles. Starts on the northern edge of the Raccoon Run campground. The trees include maple, oak, poplar and sycamore. Hikers will pass by several bank fishing areas before the trail concludes at the fish cleaning station.
4. RUGGED — 2.1 miles. The campground trail begins near the west edge of the Whitetail campground. Deep sandstone cliffs and several open views of the lake can be observed as you hike the rugged terrain. Trail closed during high water.
5. MODERATE — 1.4 miles. Starts near the Bluebird Shelter, leads through successional vegetation, second growth timber and a variety of artificial wildlife homes. Trail loops and returns to shelter.
6. ARCHERY TRAIL: Trail begins at the Gatehouse parking lot and leads through the Twin Ponds area. Archery enthusiast can shoot at stationary targets and from elevated stands along a five station, real condition; simulated practice trail.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!



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

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 car windows up tightly.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BEACH — Swimming, modern bathhouse and concessions available Memorial Day through Labor Day.

BOAT RAMPS — Available at five (5) locations, boat launching ramps are marked on the map. Raccoon ramp open year round; all other ramps are seasonal.

BOAT RENTAL — Fishing boats, pontoon boats and ski boats are available by the hour or day. Inquire at Boat Rental Office for rates and reservations.

CAMPING — Campsites available are electric, non-electric and primitive. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

CONCESSION & CAMPGROUND GROCERY — Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.

FISHING — Large, smallmouth and striped bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, walleye and white bass. Trout fishing available in tailwater area in season. State license required and available at lake office.

HIKING — Easy to rugged marked trails are available for hiking all year.

HISTORIC MASFIELD ROLLER MILL — Located six miles south of U.S. 36 off S.R. 59 and managed by Raccoon SRA. Staffed seasonally May - October. This 3 1/2 story 1880's flour mill contains most of the original equipment and stands as an example of the beginnings of industrial automation in Indiana.

HUNTING — All hunters are required by law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter sign-in station. Although very limited by area, there are some hunting opportunities for waterfowl and upland game.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available on the website at www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov or call (765) 344-1412.

PICNIC AREAS/ SHELTERS — Picnicking is available in a number of areas, containing tables, grills, toilet facilities and playfield. Accessible picnic sites available. Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

YOUTH TENT CAMPING — For organized youth groups under adult supervision in designated areas. Advance reservations required. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

THIS IS YOUR LAKE

All visitors are expected to 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 use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A person must not conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir property administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs except under a license.
- A person must not launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or another floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the department for those purposes. A watercraft shall not be left unattended in a courtesy dock.
- 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 (1) day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- A person who possesses a pet must keep the animal caged or on a leash no more than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- 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.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- A person must not possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the property office.
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

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

Parke County is very similar to much of southern Indiana with its rich rolling farmland, mineral reserves, coal, natural gas, and valuable forests of oak, walnut, maple, and hickory. However, residents treasure a unique link to the past as the "Covered Bridge Capital of America." A total of 31 covered bridges dot the countryside of Parke County, more than any other county in the United States. Because of their regional popularity, two master covered bridge builders, J.J. Daniels and J.A. Brittin, lived in Rockville, the county seat of Parke County. The remaining 32 bridges were built between 1865 and 1921. The oldest bridges are still carrying traffic.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.indianainns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Cecil M. Harden Lake
Raccoon State Recreation Area
1588 Raccoon Parkway
Rockville, IN 47872

Call: (765) 344-1412 or (765) 344-1884
Fax: (765) 344-1415



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.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 St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA



Located on State Road 36 in Parke and Putnam counties in west central Indiana, Cecil M. Harden Lake is 50 miles west of Indianapolis and 35 miles northeast of Terre Haute. It was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and opened in 1960. The property is operated and maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, under a lease arrangement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The main functions of Cecil M. Harden Lake are to control flooding and for recreation and resource management. The property is composed of 2,005 acres of land with a 2,060 acre lake.

Surrounded by numerous species of trees, Cecil M. Harden Lake is a naturalist's delight. Wildflowers, berries, nuts and mushrooms grace the wooded areas of this property. Minutes from the property is the site of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival that draws thousands of visitors every October.

PURPOSE AND PROJECT HISTORY

Cecil M. Harden Lake, formerly "Mansfield Lake," was designed and built by the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lake serves as a unit of the Comprehensive Plan for the Ohio River Basin to effect reduction in flood stages downstream from the dam, primarily in the Big Raccoon Creek and Lower Wabash River watersheds. Existence of the lake creates the potential for water-related recreation and provides for the enhancement of fish and wildlife.

The lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act approved June 28, 1938. Construction began in October 1956 and the project became operational in July 1960.

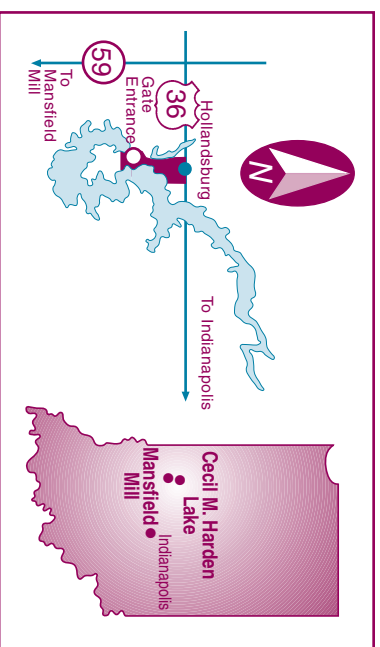
The lake was renamed from Mansfield Lake by a bill signed into law on December 14, 1974, by President Gerald R. Ford, in recognition of Mrs. Cecil Murray Harden for her role in obtaining funds for the project. Mrs. Harden has long been recognized as one of the most active members of the community, serving in positions on the local, state, and national levels. Mrs. Harden was the U.S. Congressional Representative for five terms beginning in 1949.

AREA HISTORY AND FEATURES

Cecil M. Harden Lake is located on Big Raccoon Creek in the rolling farmland of Parke County. Named for Benjamin Parke, the first judge of the U.S. District Court in Indiana, Parke County was officially organized on January 9, 1821. As with most of southern Indiana, Parke County was inhabited by several Native American tribes, primarily the Delaware, Shawnee, and Miami. The Native Americans lost the area following the signing of the "10 O'Clock Treaty" in 1809 and the Treaty of St. Marys in 1818. By 1840, the settlement of Parke County was complete.

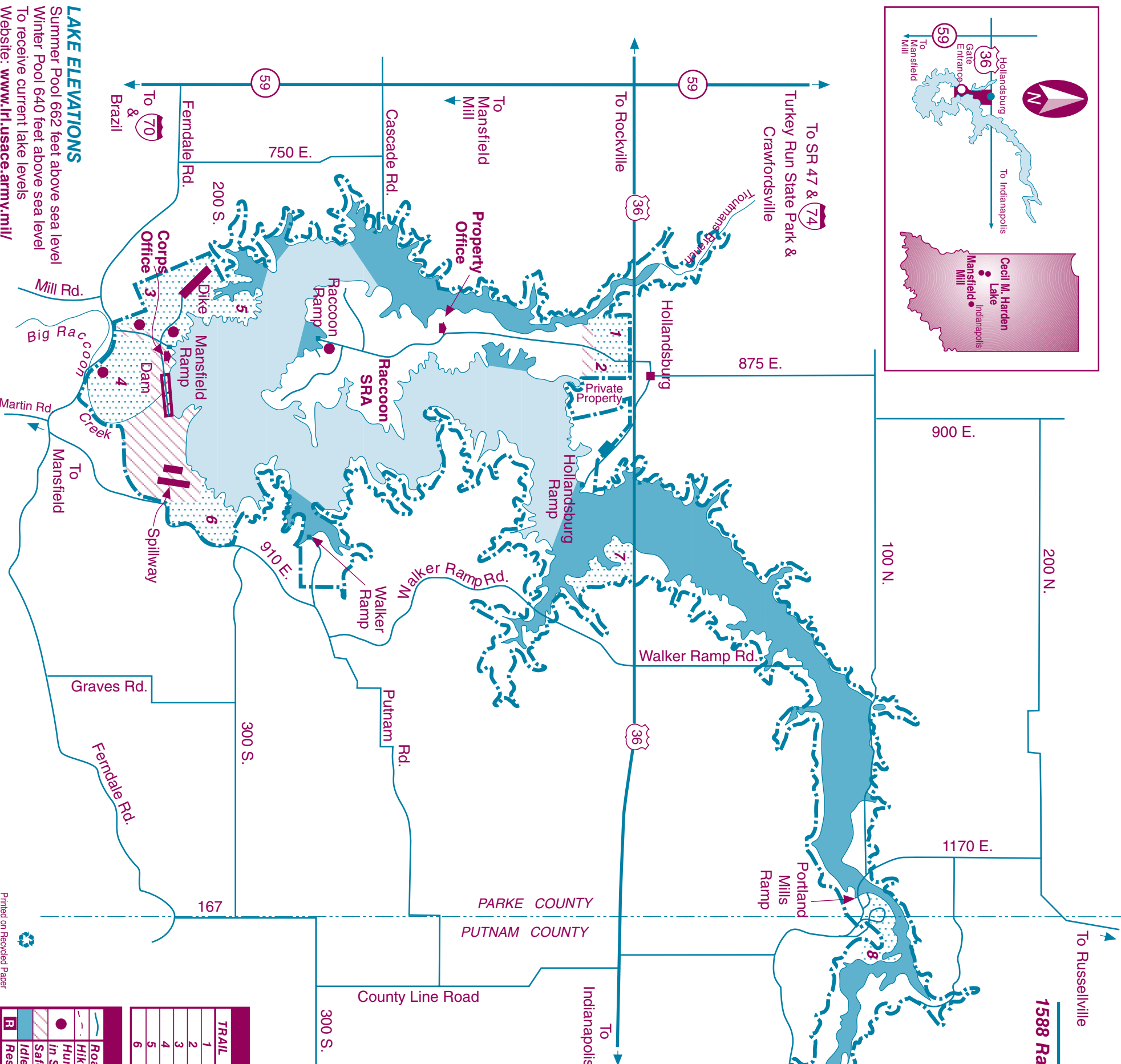
The Native Americans gave the name "Pun-go-so-co-nee" to the largest stream in Parke County, meaning "Stream of Many Sugar Trees." Early settlers translated that as Sugar Creek and followed the Native Americans in collecting sugar water from the trees each spring. They boiled the water down to syrup or granulated sugar for use as a sweetener during the rest of the year. Today, several active sugar camps still operate in the hard maple groves in Parke County. Equipment has been modernized, but the technique and spirit is the same as that of the pioneers over 150 years ago.

(Continued on back panel)



CECIL M. HARDEN LAKE RACCOON STATE RECREATION AREA

1588 Raccoon Parkway • Rockville, Indiana 47872 • 765-344-1412 • FAX 765-344-1415
4,065 Acres - 2,060 Acre Lake Established 1960

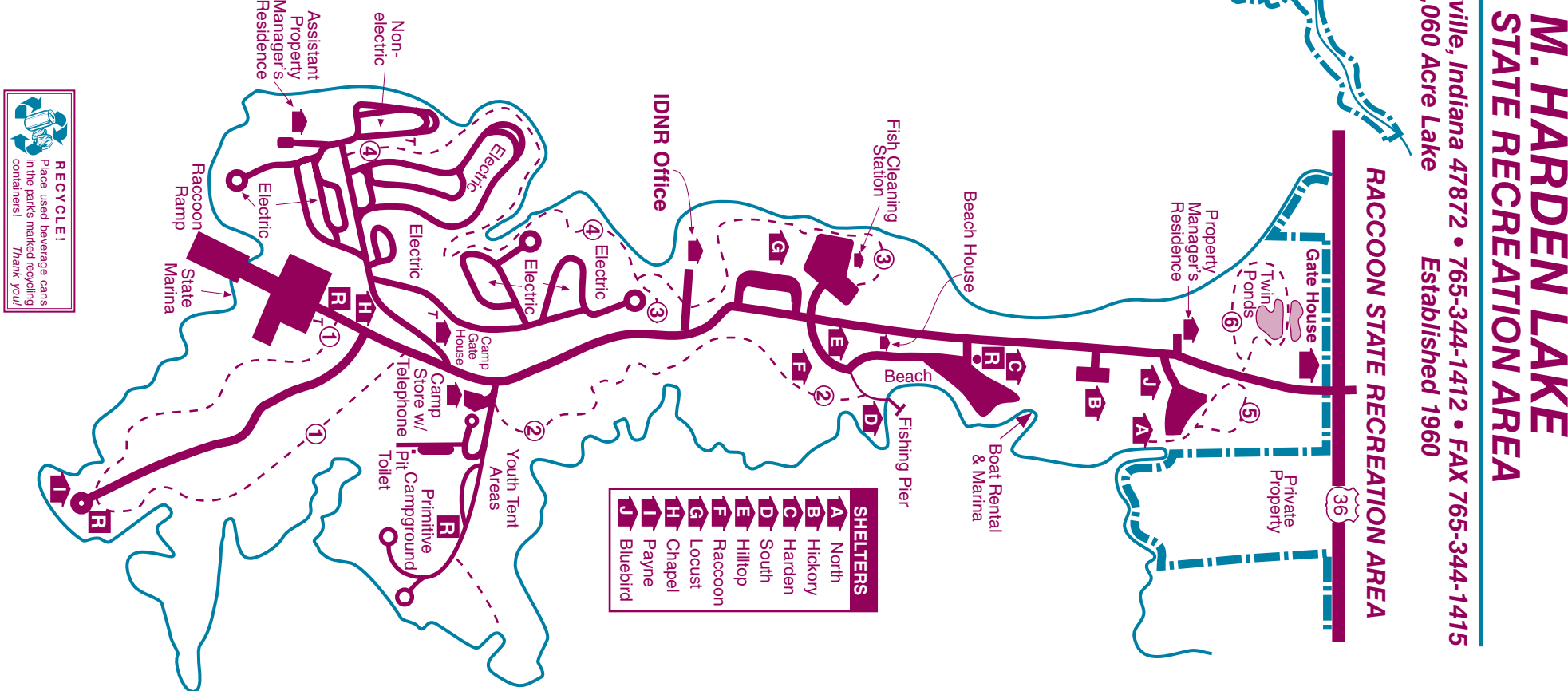


LAKE ELEVATIONS
Summer Pool 662 feet above sea level
Winter Pool 640 feet above sea level
To receive current lake levels
Website: www.frl.usace.army.mil/

Printed on Recycled Paper

TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	1.5	Moderate
2	1.3	Moderate
3	1.1	Moderate
4	2.1	Rugged
5	1.4	Easy
6	1.0	Archery

LEGEND	
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Hunter Sign-in Station
	Safety Zone
	Rest Rooms
	Telephone
	Boundary
	Resource Management Units



- SHELTERS**
- A North
 - B Hickory
 - C Harden
 - D South
 - E Hilltop
 - F Raccoon
 - G Locust
 - H Chapel
 - I Payne
 - J Bluebird

