



# Indiana Parks Alliance

*Protecting state parks & nature preserves*

Many organizations actively work for land acquisition, wildlife, native plants and environmental education, so how is the Alliance different?

No other organization exists that is devoted solely to the support of Indiana state parks and nature preserves as a whole. There is a real need for an organization to communicate the needs of Indiana state parks and Indiana nature preserves to the public and decision makers. The Alliance can create a lasting legacy for Hoosiers and for our natural and cultural resources by advocating for these special and unique places, by supporting local friends groups and by complementing the fundraising efforts of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF).

Sixteen million people visit our state parks every year, and more visit Indiana's dedicated nature preserves. The Alliance can help provide training for staff who serve these guests.

Indiana has local friends groups supporting 17 of our 32 state parks and lakes. Local friends groups are a valuable source of volunteers and project support. These dedicated local groups can face financial challenges for start-up fees, insurance and project fundraising. The Alliance will not exert any control over local groups, but will support their work with matching project grants, start-up funds, networking opportunities, and reduced rates for insurance.

The INRF supports needs for all IDNR divisions. In state parks and nature preserves, the INRF holds funds for and actively supports some property-specific projects such as a raptor program at Patoka Lake. However, not all properties have the staff or resources to assist with project fundraising. The Alliance will extend the reach of the INRF for agreed-upon park and nature preserve needs and projects.

Our state park system was a lasting gift to the people of Indiana for the 100th anniversary of our statehood in 1916. The 2014 launch of the Alliance is a fitting addition as we prepare for the second century of state parks and nature preserves in Indiana.

## What Alliance Memberships and Donations Do

Contributions will support these projects or others like them that will help to inspire a second century of Indiana state parks and nature preserves:

### Advocacy

- Promote DNR, state park and nature preserve and local friends initiatives, such as the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and the State Parks Centennial.
- Encourage adequate support for maintenance, staffing, invasive species management, historic structure preservation and other needs as appropriate.
- Provide materials that empower members to understand and advocate for state parks and nature preserves.

### Education

- Discovering the Outdoors Field Trip Grant funding to bring youth to state parks.\*
- Training and professional development for state parks and nature preserves staff.
- Interpretation through exhibits and interpretive centers.

### Research

- Scientific research (citizen science or university partnerships) on species, best management practices and recreation trends.
- Plant and insect inventories to assist with appropriate development and management of nature preserves.

### Local Friends Group Support

- A matching grant program for local friends groups property projects.
- Assistance with new friends group start-up costs such as non-profit status filing\* and reduced insurance rates.
- Funding for regular friends group training and networking opportunities.

### Trails

- Establish a Centennial Trail Fund designed to provide matching grants for sustainable trail projects.
- Support for trail projects related to accessibility.

\*An example of a cooperative project with the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation, where this fund is already established and in use.

## What Alliance Memberships and Donations Do Not Do

- Compete with fundraising efforts of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation. The Alliance may work cooperatively to extend the reach of the INRF on specific, agreed-upon projects.
- Fund state park or nature preserves operational or maintenance expenses historically supported by State dollars and revenue.

## IDNR and INRF Relationship

The INRF is the charitable partner of the IDNR, but is also tied legislatively to the agency. The Alliance is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to both advocate for and support the needs of Indiana's State Parks and Indiana's Nature Preserves.

The Alliance is separate legally and financially from IDNR and INRF.

## Alliance Funding

Operational funds are generated through memberships and donations, and maintained independently. Funds donated for projects may be held by the Alliance, or may be deposited in the INRF when cooperative and specific funding initiatives are underway.

Representatives from IDNR and from the INRF participate in an advisory capacity to assist the Alliance's board in cooperative planning and projects.

## Mission

We are a charitable organization that supports Indiana State Parks and Nature Preserves, the resources they steward, and the people they serve through education, promotion, fundraising and assistance for local friends groups.

## Alliance Vision

We provide a recognized, distinguished voice for the preservation of natural and cultural resources, support the needs of Indiana State Parks and Nature Preserves and work in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, local friends groups and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

## Objectives

The Alliance will accomplish the following for IDNR State Parks and Nature Preserves:

- Advocate for the missions, goals and objectives of these divisions and of DNR.
- Support and promote significant initiatives, research and projects.
- Promote ongoing communication between IDNR and stakeholders.
- Support training and development for IDNR employees and local friends groups.
- Provide grants and support that will assist local IDNR friends groups in achieving their missions.
- Complement fund raising initiatives of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

## Alliance and Local Friends Groups

The Alliance does not direct or control the work of local friends groups, but provides the availability of reduced rates for insurance, matching grants for projects, and resources for training as requested.

## Alliance Governance

The group is governed by a board of directors who agree to expectations that include contributing financially to the organization, active participation in board meetings and projects and operating with ethical standards.

## Membership Information

You are invited to help launch the Alliance in 2014-15. Memberships begin in the month following receipt of funds, and are renewable in one year. All memberships are available to individuals or to couples. Memberships are tax deductible, minus membership gifts identified below. Gifts are optional if you want to donate the full amount of membership to the organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organizational Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Select Your Membership Level below:

- \$20 **Student/Classroom.** Receive IPA e-news.
- \$25 **Friends Group.** Indiana State Parks or Nature Preserves local friends groups. Receive IPA e-news.
- \$35 **Individual.\*** Receive IPA e-news.
- \$75 **Organizational.** Non-profit organization with similar missions. Receive IPA e-news.
- \$100 **Contributor/Family.\*** Receive IPA e-news and one DNR annual pass.
- \$250 **Supporter.\*** Receive IPA e-news, a DNR annual pass and an Outdoor Indiana Magazine subscription.
- \$500 **Partner.\*** Receive e-news, one DNR annual pass and a \$50 State Park Inns gift card.
- \$1000 **Patron.** Receive e-news, one DNR annual pass and a \$100 State Park Inns gift card.
- \$5000+ **Lieber Society.** Richard Lieber was the founder of Indiana State Parks & a visionary leader in the national conservation movement in the early 20th Century. Receive IPA e-news, two DNR annual passes and a \$200 State Park Inns gift card.

- Please use all of my membership to support the Alliance.  Please send membership gifts.
- Check here if you would like for your donation to remain anonymous in any public lists.

Send form with check to:

**Indiana Parks Alliance. PO Box 1591 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1591**

\*\$10 discount if proof of membership in one of local State Parks property friends groups provided.  
DNR annual pass valued at \$40 (regular) or \$20 (Golden Hoosier for members age 65 or older) and Outdoor Indiana Magazine subscription valued at \$15.  
Annual passes will not be sent until 2015 passes are available in October.

## Join the Founders' Circle

Make your contribution of \$250 or more before July 1, 2016. Receive a cloisonné pin with the Alliance logo to wear and promote the Alliance to others, receive recognition on the Alliance website and an invitation to a Founder's Circle gathering in 2016.

**\*Up to 2 pins provided per annual gift.**