

2023 Annual Report

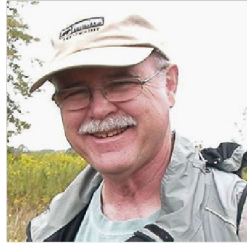


Indiana Parks Alliance

Protecting state parks & nature preserves

President's Report:

A good year for conservation in Indiana



The state of Indiana's financial picture remained positive, and the 2023-25 biennial budget was kind to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It included high visibility items like \$100 million for construction of the new state park inn at Potato Creek State Park and \$10 million for the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust (for purchase of natural areas). Several below the radar items that are critical to the operations of DNR were also included. The two biggest of these were funds to cover increases to state employee salaries and increases to division operating budgets.

State parks continued to make progress on the huge backlog of deferred maintenance caused by years of neglect, but there is still much to do. The 2023-25 budget included \$150 million for deferred maintenance at state facilities but did not indicate what portion of these funds might be available for DNR properties. However, IPA is hopeful that much of it will be directed their way.

The 2023 legislative session saw another attempt to gut Indiana's wetland protections. This was done as a late addition to an unrelated bill, but was eventually derailed. Disaster averted, but celebrations were tempered by the expectation that wetland opponents would undoubtedly try again in 2024.

Visitation to state parks, nature preserves, and other natural areas continued strong in 2023. The Division of Nature Preserves dedicated five new nature preserves, including Toothwort Woods Nature Preserve, their 300th. They also located a new population of a state endangered plant and relocated an occurrence of a state threatened plant last seen by Charles Deam in 1911.

One sad event during 2023 was the heavy damage inflicted by a tornado to McCormick's Creek State Park campground and adjacent nature preserves. Tragically, two people died in the tornado, but heroic actions by a park employee undoubtedly saved other lives. As to be expected, employees from across DNR pitched in to help with the cleanup and recovery efforts, and donations poured in from the community to help.

-Tom Hohman

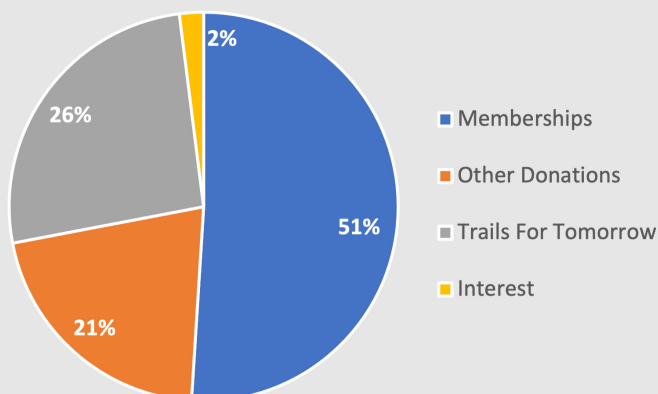
IPA 2023 Accomplishments

- Helped develop Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) legislative priorities for 2023-25 state budget. Final legislative budget included much from this list:
 - \$100 million for new Potato Creek State Park Inn
 - Increases in operating budgets for DNR
 - Funding for DNR salary increases
 - \$10 million for purchase of natural areas
 - \$5 million for McCormick's Creek campground
 - \$150 million for deferred maintenance at state facilities (unsure how much of this is for DNR)
- Awarded \$5,750 in project grants to four state park friends' groups:
 - Friends of Mounds SP - \$1,000 for restoration work on historic Bronnenberg Home
 - Friends of Ouabache SP - \$3,000 for Phase 3 of invasive management initiative
 - Friends of Spring Mill SP - \$750 for Civil War reenactment
 - Friends of Upper Wabash Invasive Species - \$1,000 for a Weed Wrangle
- Donated \$2,000 to Friends of McCormick's Creek SP for tornado recovery
- Purchased "confidence signs" for Clifty Falls SP trails
- Started the Trails for Tomorrow campaign to raise funds for improvements to State Park and Nature Preserve trails
- Conducted first Conversation with Dan Bortner webinar
- Updated and modernized IPA website
- Participated in Division of Fish & Wildlife State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) workshop
- Participated at two Earth Day events and the Indiana State Fair
- Sponsored and exhibited at several of our conservation partners' events
- Supported and participated in annual meeting of state park and nature preserves friends' groups

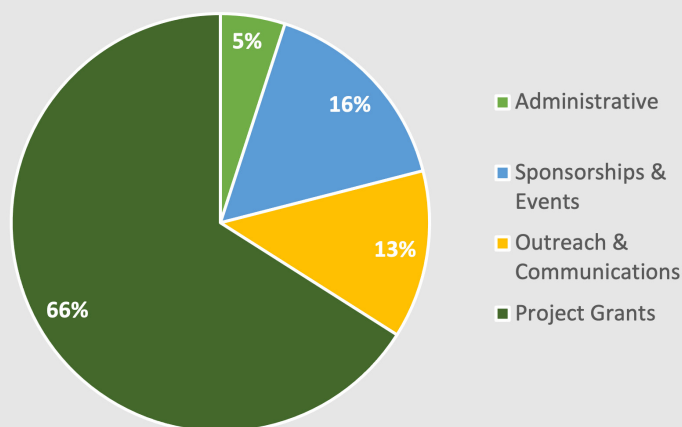
The Indiana Parks Alliance (IPA) is a charitable organization that supports Indiana State Parks and state owned Nature Preserves, the resources they steward, and the people they serve.

IPA 2023 Financial Summary

Income



Expenses



Watch IPA in 2024...

- Project grant awards to local DNR Friends' groups
- Watch for ways IPA supports sustainable trails on DNR properties
- News on the status of the Recover America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) in Congress
- Results of the old growth Donaldson Woods study at Spring Mill State Park
- Look for IPA at Earth Day and other conservation-oriented events
- Find projects, position statements, and suggestions for contacting your federal and state lawmakers on our website and Facebook page

...And Get Involved!

- Join the Indiana Parks Alliance and help us build a strong financial foundation!
- Consider an end of year donation to IPA.
- If you are a state employee, you can donate to IPA through the State Employee Capital Campaign (one-time donation or payroll deduction).
- Use Goodshop or sign up to donate when you shop at Kroger.
- Contact your legislator and let them know that state parks and nature preserves are important to you. You can email your legislator through the Indiana General Assembly website, <http://iga.in.gov/>
- Help us staff booths at festivals and events.
- Serve on an IPA committee.
- Recruit new members or suggest potential donors.
- Follow IPA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/indianaparksalliance>

Scan to visit IPA's website:



2023 IPA Board Members

Thanks to these leaders for their service to Indiana State Parks and Indiana's State-Owned Dedicated Nature Preserves through the Indiana Parks Alliance.

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Vice President - Development
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