

History

Hello, and welcome to Eagle Creek Park, the 4th largest city park in the nation. Located in northwest Marion County, Eagle Creek land was purchased by J.K. Lilly (pharmaceutical) between 1936-1958 and maintained as a nature preserve. The Park houses a variety of woodland animals, 260 species of birds, nearly 400 species of flowering plants, and 101 varieties of trees. In the late 1950's, Lilly gave the land to Purdue University. The University sold Eagle Creek property to the City of Indianapolis. Eagle Creek Park has filled a need for the city's rapidly growing population, providing recreational and outdoor educational opportunities for public enjoyment.

Trails

Over ten miles of trails provide individuals with excellent exercise opportunities, a serene setting for a peaceful walk, or a picturesque view of the glistening reservoir.

Six major trails along with additional trails located at the Nature Center wind throughout the park and are easy-to-moderate in difficulty. Natural and gravel paths lead you through mature woods filled with beech, maple, tulip, white ash and black cherry into open meadow areas, and past the reservoir and Lilly Lake. Individuals will also encounter bridges, steps, and a few steep hills.

A fitness trail provides a unique opportunity for a vigorous hike. The trail encompasses 20 exercise stations and a total of 32 exercises. Signage explains each exercise and how to monitor your heart rate.

A year-round Volksmarch lends accessibility to a scenic 10-K trail. Individuals are able to earn IVV credit by completing the walk.

The trails are favorable for the athletic as well as the recreational walker and provide miles of enjoyment.

Facilities

Eagle Creek Park is open year-round from dawn to dusk. The park consists of 3,900 acres of wooded terrain and open meadows, and 1,300 acres of water, great for boating, fishing and swimming. A one-acre ecology pond, a five-acre lake (Lilly Lake), and skating ponds are also comprised within the park. Eagle Creek is known for its beautiful scenery, outdoor education programs and diverse recreational activities. Accessible facilities are available at Shelter A and B, the Marina, and the Ranger Station. A few highlights of the park's facilities and their programs follow:

Marina

The Marina, open from May to September, is the nucleus for a variety of activities such as sailing, canoeing, and rowboat rentals. Sailing lessons, board sailing, bait and concession sales are also available, along with scenic boat rides on the lovely reservoir.

Beach

A sandy beach and a grassy sunbathing area enhance this popular spot. Open May to August, the beach area has a volleyball court, lifeguards on duty, concessions, and a clothes-check area.

Nature Center Complex

This complex includes the Nature Center (originally J.K. Lilly's personal library), Lilly Lodge, and a reflecting pool. The Nature Center provides a variety of outdoor educational opportunities including interpretive walks, live animal programs, and outreach programs. The Center contains numerous nature games and displays. Also within the Complex there are self-guided trails, a 599 year-old Douglas Fir log, a beech tree where Daniel Boone etched a bear print, native wildflowers, hummingbird and butterfly gardens and an aquatic garden.

Lilly Lodge

Located north of the Nature Center, Lilly Lodge overlooks the reservoir providing a panoramic view. It is used for wildlife and nature art shows.

Eagle's Hide-a-way

This secluded retreat house has beautifully landscaped grounds, terrace gardens, and a deck patio overlooking one of the Park's most scenic views. The Hide-A-Way is a popular place for business meetings and receptions and weddings and can accommodate up to 100 people.

Eagle's Crest

This 70-acre recreational area and retreat house is popular for social events, meetings, and a variety of outdoor activities.

Eagles Crest Group Picnic Area

A large shelter has lighting, plenty of picnic tables and two large grills making this an ideal location for large groups.

Rules and Regulations

1. All plants, animals, and structures within the park are protected by city ordinance. In addition, firewood gathering is not permitted.
2. Please do not litter.
3. Hunting and trapping are not permitted.
4. Ground fires are not permitted.
5. Ice fishing is permitted.
6. Bank fishing is allowed in designated areas.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
8. The park closes at dusk.
9. Snowmobiles are not permitted.
10. Saddle horses are not permitted.
11. Swimming and wading is allowed only at the Swimming Beach when lifeguards are present.
12. Ice skating is allowed only at designated areas.
13. It is requested that walkers, joggers, and bicyclist travel single file and at the edge of the road.
14. Please obey all posted speed limits.
15. Firearms and archery are not permitted except where designated.
16. Use caution when entering the park roadways from trails.
17. Dogs must be friendly and on a leash.

For your protection, lock all valuables in the trunk of your car.

Eagle Creek Park Office
7840 West 56th Street • 327-7110

Eagle Creek Park

