



At the Griffy Lake Dog Park canines and their guardians get some fresh air while socializing.

Great Outdoors

A VARIETY OF ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND NATURAL BEAUTY MAKE BLOOMINGTON A GREAT PLACE FOR AN OUTDOOR EXCURSION.

Lakes

Three distinct lakes provide a variety of ways to explore the waters and shorelines of the area. Calm canoe rides, water skiing, fishing, swimming beaches and hiking trails are all part of the lake experience.

Griffy Lake

Rent a canoe, kayak or rowboat for a peaceful journey on the 109-acre Griffy Lake just two miles north of downtown. Over 10 miles of moderately difficult trails wind through the ridges and ravines around the lake. The boathouse is open daily from May through September and weekends in April and October. **3300 North Headley Road • 812-349-3700**

Lake Lemon

Constructed in 1953, this 1,650 acre reservoir and its surrounding area is characterized by the splendor of ridge and ravine topography. Riddle Point Park includes a boat launching ramp, picnic area, swimming beach and lots of shoreline for fishing. **10 miles east of Bloomington on State Road 45 North • 812-334-0233 • www.lakelemon.org**

Lake Monroe

Lake Monroe is the state's largest inland lake. Built in 1965, there are 10,750 acres of water surface surrounded by several thousand acres of state and federally-owned forest lands. Boating, fishing, water-skiing, and swimming are popular activities and camping is available at several private, state and federal campgrounds. Lake Monroe is also one of Indiana's premier bird-watching sites with several pairs of bald eagles in residence as well as a variety of other species. For camping information see page 48. **Paynetown SRA is accessible by Highway 446 • Fairfax SRA is accessible by Highway 37 or Fairfax Road • Office: 812-837-9546 • Interpretive Center: 812-837-9967**

Forests and Wilderness Areas

Bloomington is centrally located among some of Indiana's most beautiful forest lands, with in-town nature parks and out-of-the-way wilderness areas and everything in between. Contact the Bloomington Visitors Center at 800-800-0037 or go to visitbloomington.com to request your Recreation Guide.

Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve

Featuring a 75-foot high limestone bluff and gnarled red cedars clinging to cliffs, Cedar Bluff provides a stunning display of species adaptation and survival in a harsh environment. The preserve is open from dawn to dusk. Use the marked access route from Ketcham Road into the preserve and please park on the north side of the road. **Just off Ketcham Road • 317-951-8818 • www.nature.org/indiana**

Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area

Indiana's only Congressionally-designated wilderness area, encompassing nearly 13,000 acres of the Hoosier National Forest, this area is managed to preserve a natural condition and provide opportunities for solitude. Highlights include an extensive trail system, the Hickory Ridge Fire Tower and camping opportunities. **Accessible from State Road 446 • 812-275-5987 or 866-302-4173 • www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier**

Hoosier National Forest

This 200,000-acre National Forest encompasses nine counties in South-Central Indiana. There are over 230 miles of hiking, horseback and mountain biking trails in the Forest. Hunting, nature study, camping, picnicking and scenic drives are all popular activities and campgrounds are located near lakes and in conjunction with some trail systems. **Access from State Road 446 • 812-275-5987 • www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier**

Leonard Springs Nature Park

Highlights of this city-owned nature park include springs, caves, steep forested slopes and a wetland. A rich variety of flora and fauna call this park home. Please stay on trails and do not disturb plants or animals. Dogs must be leashed at all times. **3884 South Leonard Springs Road • 812-349-3700**

Lower Cascades Park

For a taste of nature close to downtown, explore Lower Cascades Park. Just below the Cascades Golf Course on the northern edge of Bloomington, Lower Cascades features a fully accessible playground, two limestone shelter houses, picnic areas and Cascades Creek. **2851 North Old State Road 37 317-349-3700**

visit**bloomingt**.com



Morgan-Monroe State Forest

Straddling the border between Monroe and Morgan Counties, this state forest was created in 1929 and encompasses many steep ridges and valleys. There are three small fishing lakes and several picnic areas located within the forest and primitive campsites are available. One of the highlights of this forest is an extensive network of trails covering more than 28 miles. **North of Bloomington, just off Highway 37 • 765-342-4026 www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry/4816.htm**

Yellowwood State Forest

Established in 1940, this state-owned forest now consists of more than 23,000 acres near the Monroe-Brown County line. Named for the yellowwood trees that grow within it, highlights include the 133-acre Yellowwood Lake, seasonal rowboat rentals, primitive camping, picnic areas and hiking trails. **East of Bloomington, just off Highway 46 812-988-7945 • www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4817.htm**

Marinas & Boat Rentals

There are several options available for boat rentals and private boat launching at each of the three area lakes.

Griffy Lake Boathouse

Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are available for rent from April through October at the boathouse located on the northeast shore of the lake. Check out the self-guided canoe trail! Privately owned boats are prohibited at Griffy Lake. Call for boathouse hours. **North Headley Road • 812-379-3732**

Lake Lemon Marina

The marina at Lake Lemon offers slip rentals, a boat ramp, 24/7 fuel sales and a convenience store. **On Northshore Drive 812-988-9400 www.lakelemonmarina.com**

Music in the Park

The Bloomington Parks & Recreation department provides

three free opportunities to enjoy some great live music in the outdoors. The Tuesday Lunch Concert series brings performers downtown to People's Park, May through September. You can bring your lunch or sit on one of the nearby restaurant patios and enjoy a lovely lunchtime show. The Concert in the Park series runs throughout the summer months, showcasing local musicians at the Third Street Park on Friday evenings. These performances are very popular, and a perfect ending to a dinner out downtown. The Sunday Concerts in the Park take place July through August at Bryan Park, providing a late afternoon show in a family-friendly setting. These free events are a great way to enjoy the outdoors and hear some of Bloomington's best musicians. **www.bloomington.in.gov/parks**

< Exploring the many parks and national forests near Bloomington is a peaceful way to spend an afternoon.

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Bloomington Community Band

This community band was started in 1978 and is made up of 50 to 60 members. The group performs around 20 concerts a year, many at civic events like the Fourth of July parade and the Canopy of Lights Festival. Their performances consist of marches, popular tunes, concert band and light classical pieces. The Bloomington Community Band provides another opportunity for talented local musicians to perform, and adds to the musical fabric of our city. www.bloomingtoncommunityband.org

Paradise Boat Rental

Rent a brand-new boat from Paradise Boat Rental and enjoy the surf and sun - they've got everything from kayaks to pontoons to personal watercraft. Reservations are recommended and can be made online. Located at a full-service resort and marina facility. **at Fourwinds Resort & Marina • Fairfax State Recreation Area • 800-824-BOAT (2628) • www.fourwindsresort.com**

Lake Monroe Boat Rental

Lake Monroe Boat Rental offers a variety of boats, including double-decker party boats, pontoons, ski boats, jet skis, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks and water sport accessories. Lake Monroe Boat Rental is your east side lake resource for all things boat-related. **Paynetown State Recreation Area 812-837-9909 • www.lakemonroeboatrental.com**

Parks & Recreation Departments

Between the area's city and county parks departments, visitors and residents alike have access to an incredible variety of recreational facilities featuring softball and soccer fields, water parks, tennis and basketball courts and much more.

City of Bloomington

The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department maintains a variety of properties featuring everything from paved trails to softball fields. Several family programs are available including the Summer Performing Arts Series, kids' camps and more. Call for a complete schedule. **812-349-3700 bloomington.in.gov/parks**

Monroe County

The Monroe County Parks and Recreation department maintains several park facilities including Flatwoods Park near Ellettsville and Karst Farm Park just west of Bloomington. Senior and youth programs are available. The ADA accessible Splash Pad and Playscape is located in Karst Farm Park. **290 West 7th Street • 812-349-2800 www.co.monroe.in.us/parksandrecreation**

Birding

The Bloomington area is home to nearly 300 species of birds and Lake Monroe is well known as one of the state's premier birding locations. Contact the Visitors Center at 800-800-0037 for a list of popular birding spots.

BirdCountry.US

Dedicated to the conservation of North American birds and affordable education in avian ecology, BirdCountry.US presents a variety of workshops and special events in the Bloomington area throughout the year, including Eagle Watch Weekend in February. www.birdcountry.us

Outfitters & Guides

Looking for some outdoor adventure, but don't know where to start? Check out one of the following adventure guides for a personalized experience or educational workshop.

IU Outdoor Adventures

IU Outdoor Adventures offers a wide variety of pre-planned outdoor experiences such as backpacking, rafting, kayaking, rock climbing and skydiving for everyone from beginners to experienced adventurers. Equipment rentals are available. **Eigenmann Hall, Room 020 • 812-855-2231 • www.imu.indiana.edu**

JL Waters

JL Waters is an adventure outfitter store founded in 1973. It's located on the west side of the square in downtown Bloomington and boasts an indoor climbing wall. JL Waters sells adventure and outdoor gear including technical and casual apparel, footwear, climbing, backpacking, camping equipment, canoes, kayaks, skis, snowboards, fly fishing equipment, luggage, maps and GPS from such companies as The North Face, Patagonia, Marmot and many more. **109 North College Avenue • 812-334-1845 • www.jlwaters.com**

Most High Adventure Outfitters

Most High Adventure Outfitters is Indiana's premier adventure outfitter. MHAO provides group canoe/kayak, mountain biking and boating tours and rentals on the best streams, lakes and trails in Indiana. Their mission is to enable their customers to experience the best outdoor recreation with the most experienced staff, and finest equipment in the state. Observe wildlife, camp where few others do, experience Indiana with MHAO! **812-340-0700 • www.mosthighadventure.com**

Biking & Walking Trails

Bloomington offers a variety of paved and natural trails for cyclists, hikers and those who simply want to take a relaxing stroll. Additional hiking trails can be found at properties listed under Lakes and Forest & Wildlife Areas in this guide.

Bloomington Bicycle Club

Formed in 1976, the Bloomington Bicycle Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting bicycling. The BBC hosts a varied program of cycling activities throughout the area. Peak riding season is March through October with a variety of scheduled rides. www.bloomingtonbicycleclub.org

Bloomington Hikers

This group of fun-loving people enjoys hiking in the areas surrounding Bloomington. Hikes vary in length between eight and 15 miles; members range from the 20s to 60s; experience ranges from beginner to advanced. The group meets at Bloomingfoods East every Saturday at 9 am and visitors are welcome. groups.google.com/group/bloomington-hikers

Bloomington Rail Trail

This gravel surface, multi-use trail stretches from Country Club Drive southward to Church Lane. The trail is suitable for walking, running and most bicycles. The tree-lined trail corridor offers a relaxing, serene trail experience. The Bloomington Rail Trail and the paved Clear Creek Trail share a trailhead at Church Lane that features a 150-foot, historic Warren Truss iron bridge. **Trailheads at West Country Club Road and Church Lane • 812-349-3700**

Clear Creek Trail

Stretching nearly two and a half miles from Tapp Road to Church Lane, this paved recreational trail offers opportunities for biking, walking, jogging, roller blading or stroller walking through landscapes that vary from woods to farm fields. A 150-foot historic Warren Truss iron bridge connects the Church Lane trailhead to both the Clear Creek Trail and the Bloomington Rail Trail. **Trailheads at West Tapp Road, That Road and Church Lane • 812-349-3700**

Wapehani Mountain Bike Park

This unique park features more than five miles of rolling single-track trails for mountain bike use and hiking. Riders must wear helmets and sign liability waivers before riding, which are available from local bike shops and the Bloomington Parks and Recreation office. Do not ride on the trails when trails are wet. **2800 West Wapehani Road • 812-349-3700**

Specialty Recreation

From fitness training to ice skating to underground tours, this section's got all the information you'll need to have a uniquely Bloomington recreational experience!

Bloomington Speedway

One of Indiana's best dirt oval tracks, featuring sprints, open-wheel (UMP) modifieds and Indiana Super Stocks every Friday, April through September. Gates open at 5:30 pm, racing at 7:30 pm. Free parking and camping available. **5185 South Fairfax Road • 812-824-7400 • www.bloomingtonspeedway.com**

Bluespring Caverns Park

The Myst'ry River Voyage is an hour-long trip by boat into the heart of the natural underground world. Lighted tour boats explore the underground river, home to rare blind cavefish and crayfish. Guided tours are offered every day, March 16 through October 31. Reservations recommended for groups of 12 or more. **US Highway 50, 5 minutes southwest of Bedford 812-279-9471 • www.bluespringcaverns.com**

Frank Southern Ice Arena

This indoor ice skating facility is home to Bloomington Blades youth hockey and the Bloomington Figure Skating Club. Public ice skating sessions and skate rentals are available. Call the Ice Info hotline for times and admission prices. Open October through March. **1965 South Henderson Street Ice Info Hotline: 812-349-3741**

Hoosier Heights Indoor Climbing Facility

Hoosier Heights features challenging indoor climbing walls that are suitable for all skill levels. Necessary equipment may be rented and instruction is available. Groups are welcome; call ahead to schedule. **5100 South Rogers Street 812-824-6414 • www.hoosierheights.com**

Hoosier Bar & Grill

The Hoosier Bar & Grill is located in Ellettsville, just off of Highway 46 as you

enter this small town a few minutes east of Bloomington. It's a casual restaurant and bar with a family-friendly atmosphere. Food and drinks are always available and entertainment rotates each day from free pool on Mondays to Wii competitions on Wednesday. And, of course, there's live music on Saturday nights, with a lineup of local blues, country and classic rock musicians. **www.hoosierbarandgrill.com**



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Stone Creek Ranch

Enjoy riding on more than 15 miles of self-guided trails. Horse boarding and leasing are available, and both indoor and outdoor arenas mean you can ride no matter what the weather. All skill levels welcome, from the novice to the experienced rider. **5401 West Duvall Road • 812-824-6645 www.stonecreekranchindiana.com**

Twin Lakes Recreation Center

This rec center features five hardwood basketball courts, volleyball courts, indoor soccer field, 1/5 mile track and weight-training equipment. Group fitness classes are available. Leagues, classes, tournaments, parties and group rentals are welcome. Membership or daily use available. **1700 West Bloomfield Road, east of Highway 37 • 812-349-3720 Bloomington.in.gov/TLRC**

Upper Cascades Skate Park

A public sports park just for alternative sports enthusiasts, the skate park features concrete ramps, rails and other terrain for use by skateboarders and in-line skaters. Free admission; no bikes permitted. Open dawn to dusk. **North Kinser Pike, south of Cascades Golf Course • 812-349-3700**

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Farmers' Market

Besides offering fresh, local produce and food products, the Bloomington Farmers' Market also provides a stage for local musicians to promote their work and entertain the large crowds. The market, located in the Showers Common next to City Hall, is open on Saturday mornings from April through November, with new groups performing each week. Pick up some produce, a bouquet of flowers, and enjoy the tunes that flow through the market!

www.bloomington.in.gov/farmersmarket

Orchards & Farms

Get back in touch with nature at one of the Bloomington area's growing attractions! Pick a pumpkin, sample some apple butter or taste "Indiana's first-place Cider."

Dillman Farm

This locally owned manufacturer is best known for apple butter, but also makes a wide variety of all natural fruit butters, preserves, salsas, gourmet fudge and BBQ sauces. Group tours can be arranged to view processing. **4955 West State Road 45 • 812-825-5525 • www.dillmanfarm.com**

Melton's Orchard

This quaint little roadside shop features a year-round selection of fruits and vegetables, apples, cider, persimmon pulp, apple butter and more, including a gift shop. **4445 West State Road 45 • 812-825-2737**

Musgrave Orchard

This orchard, cider mill and country market features "Indiana's first-place Cider," fresh apples, local honey, persimmon pulp, pumpkins, crafts from local vendors and lots of seasonal decorations. Open during the fall season. Call ahead for current hours. **8798 North Old State Road 37 • 812-339-5006**

Golf

A variety of high quality golfing experiences are available in the Bloomington area. Players at all levels can find a challenging and enjoyable course.

Cascades Golf Course

The course consists of three 9-hole layouts that can be combined to create three separate 18-hole options, all located on 200 acres of beautiful rolling hills. Amenities include a pro shop, concessions, driving range and putting green. Lessons are available from the on-site golf pro. **3550 North Kinser Pike • 812-349-3764 • www.bloomington.in.gov/parks**

Q. If you could recommend one thing for a visitor to experience while in town, what would it be?

A. Everyone should visit Hoagy Carmichael's grave in Rose Hill Cemetery.



Jim Manion is the Music Director at WFHB Firehouse Broadcasting station, 91.3FM. WFHB focuses on providing programs that are diverse, including music of various genres and origins, and provides a news and information in an open and accessible forum.

Eagle Pointe Golf Resort

Located near the shores of beautiful Lake Monroe, Eagle Pointe Golf Resort features an 18-hole championship golf course, one to six bedroom condos, a full service restaurant and bar, swimming pool, tennis courts and more. Ask about stay and play packages! **2250 East Pointe Road • 812-824-4040 or 877-324-7683 • www.eaglepointe.com**

Indiana University Golf Course

The IU Golf Course features a beautiful and challenging 18-hole Championship course, nine hole executive course and lighted driving range. Open to the public, this course is also home to several amateur tournaments each year. **State Road 45/46 Bypass between Fee Lane and 10th Street • 812-855-7543 • www.iuhoosiers.com/golfcourse**

Taylor's Par 3

This nine-hole par three course is perfect for beginners, those looking for a relaxed family atmosphere or seasoned golfers wanting to practice their short game. Unlimited golf is \$9 for adults and \$7 for juniors and seniors, one dollar less each for nine holes. Fun Mondays and Fridays rates are \$5 for unlimited, for all ages. Clubs, pull carts and electric carts available for rent; no tee time required. **4975 North State Road 37 Business • 812-330-8611 • www.taylorpar3.com**

Swimming Facilities

If you're lucky enough to be visiting during the swimming season, you won't want to miss these swimming hot spots. Also see the Indiana University section of this guide for information on the IU Outdoor Pool.

Bryan Park Pool

Bryan Park Pool is an Olympic-size pool with a family activity play area designed for children under 10, plus two waterslides and a 17-foot drop slide. Concessions, lounge chairs and shade umbrellas are available. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. **1100 South Woodlawn Avenue • 812-349-3780 • www.bloomington.in.gov/parks**



Eagle Pointe

Every Friday evening in the summer months, Eagle Pointe Golf Resort presents a lively concert on their covered patio. It's worth the 20 minute drive south of Bloomington to hear some great local bands perform in this open air setting. The resort also has a full service restaurant and bar, so guests can get recharged before hitting the dance floor. **www.eaglepointe.com**

Mills Pool

Mills Pool features a 57-foot drop slide, water basketball goal and floatable animals, lounge chairs, shade umbrellas, and zero-depth family activity area. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. **1100 West 14th Street • 812-349-3781 • www.bloomington.in.gov/parks**

Swimming Beaches

Swimming beaches are located around Lake Monroe at Paynetown SRA, Fairfax SRA and Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. Riddle Point Park, located on Lake Lemon also features a swimming beach. Please note that lifeguards are not on duty at most area swimming beaches. Lake maps are available in the Recreation Guide; to request your copy, call the Visitors Center at 800-800-0037 or go to www.visitbloomington.com.

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 www.in.gov/dnr.

Campgrounds

A variety of camping facilities are located near Lake Monroe and the Hoosier National Forest. From big-rig friendly RV resorts with all the amenities to primitive tent camping, Bloomington's got it all!

Jellystone Park Lake Monroe

Just one mile from Lake Monroe, Jellystone Park offers full hook-up sites, seasonal and monthly rates, well-equipped cabin rentals, resort type accommodations, a very friendly staff and plenty of planned activities for adults and children, many with Yogi Bear and Boo Boo. Facilities include indoor and outdoor pools, shower and laundry facilities, arcade, mini golf, hiking and biking on 65 acres of woodland, a fenced in dog park and Wi-Fi. **9392 South Strain Ridge Road • 812-824-3322 • www.lakemonroejellystone.com**

Q & A with Jim Manion

Q. What makes Bloomington so special?

A. There is a high level of creative energy in the Bloomington vortex. Some claim this is from the limestone and water beneath us. Whatever the source of this special energy, artists in all mediums are aware of it and are drawn to stay here because of it. There is an attitude here, the joy of creating music for the sake of the sound, that has little or nothing to do with commerce. That is what makes it so special.

Q. Describe the music scene in Bloomington.

A. Always changing, always under-appreciated and under-attended.

Q. What's your favorite local musician/group or music venue?

A. I have many, but my number one favorite band of the last ten years or so is Early Day Miners. My favorite ex-Bloomington musician is Mark Bingham. His influence on local musical creativity in the 1970s helped shape the music scene long after he was gone.

Q. Besides enjoying music, what's your next favorite thing to do in Bloomington?

A. Long bicycle rides and growing my own food, with iPod earbuds in.

Hardin Ridge Recreation Area

Part of the Hoosier National Forest, this 1,200 acre recreational complex is located on the southern shores of Lake Monroe. Hardin Ridge offers RV and tent campsites, picnic areas, a boat launching ramp, swimming beach and nature walks in a wooded environment. **Off State Road 446 • 812-837-9453 (Apr. - Oct.) or 877-444-6777 (reservations only)**
www.recreation.gov

Lake Monroe Village

This 130 acre RV camping resort offers overnight, monthly and full-time camping for any type of unit, including 50 or 30 amp electrical service, city water and sewer hook-ups, concrete pads, showers, laundry facilities and wireless Internet service. Facilities include a large swimming pool, recreation hall and outdoor picnic pavilion. Hiking trails and lake access on site. **8107 South Fairfax Road • 812-824-2267**
www.lakemonroevillage.com

Paynetown State Recreation Area

This state operated recreational area on the northeast side of Lake Monroe offers electric and non-electric camping sites. Boat rental service, a marina with gas sales and a camp store. The DNR-staffed Nature Center is located near the park entrance. Entrance fee or state park pass is required. **4850 State Road 446 • 812-837-9490 or 812-837-9546**
www.indiana.reserveworld.com

Hoosier National Forest

Numerous campgrounds are available in this 200,000 acre forest, adjacent to the trail systems. Free primitive camping is available in several locations. Call for trail permits, topographical maps or more information on where camping is permitted in the Hoosier National Forest. **812-275-5987**
www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier

Cabins, Guest Houses & A-Frames

The Bloomington area has numerous cabins and guest houses located close to the area's three lakes. These unique lodging options provide a great alternative to camping while still maintaining a secluded, private feel, plus offering all the amenities of home. Each cabin or guest house is different, so please refer to the Hotels & Accommodations section of this guide or go to www.visitbloomington.com for more detailed descriptions of what each individual property has to offer.



The view from high atop the Hickory Ridge Fire Tower in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness area is worth the 30 min. drive from Bloomington.