

# MOUNDS STATE PARK



As the name suggests, Mounds State Park contains and preserves some of the finest examples of earthwork and mound building in Indiana. Built by the Adena and Hopewell cultures around 160 B.C., the 10 mounds and earthworks within park boundaries range in size from a few inches tall to several feet high. These mounds were used primarily for ceremony, celebration, and observation of solstices, equinoxes and stellar events. Research indicates that these mounds were used to track the seasons, the positions of more than 100 of the brightest stars, as well as those of the moon and visible planets. The largest and best preserved of the park's mounds is the "Great Mound," easily accessed by Trail 1. Technically referred to as a "circular enclosure," this earthwork is the largest of its kind in the state, and is nearly a quarter-mile in circumference.

Among the first inhabitants of this area were the Adena, who dated to 1,000 B.C., and were primarily a hunter/gatherer society. They left their mark by the construction of several mounds. Although later cultures, such as the Hopewell, used some of the earthworks for burial purposes, these unique earthen features seem to have been used mostly for astronomical observations and as a prehistoric calendar.

Although much has been learned about the mounds and the people who built and used them, many questions remain unanswered. What happened to the Adena and Hopewell people? Why did they disappear? Although many theories abound, no one has the answers.

In the early 19th century, a family of German immigrants, the Bronnenbergs, made this site their home. Owning more than 600 acres, they operated a large farm, with their fields and pastures located in the present-day picnic areas. They were also known to be lovers of fine horses and would hold races on what is today Mounds Road.

One of the sons, Frederick Bronnenberg Jr., built a two-story brick farmhouse that stands to this day. Constructed in the 1840s, virtually every bit of the house came from the surrounding woodlands—the foundation is limestone quarried from nearby White River, the bricks were handmade on site, and most of the woodwork is tuliptree.

In 1897, some of the Bronnenberg land was leased to the Indiana Union Traction Company, which operated an amusement park in the southern end of the property. Attractions included a roller coaster, roller skating rink, shooting gallery, carousel, boat rides on the river, and a pavilion with a restaurant on the first floor and a dance hall on the second. Many dance marathons of the “roaring ‘20s” were held there. But when the Great Depression began, this business, like so many others, simply failed. The Madison County Historical Society then purchased the land and donated it to the state of Indiana. Mounds Park became Mounds State Park in October 1930.

**Please let wild animals remain wild.** Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

## THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups are permitted in the family campground.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- 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 shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 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 park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed in the park, between these hours, except for campers using their sites.

## DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

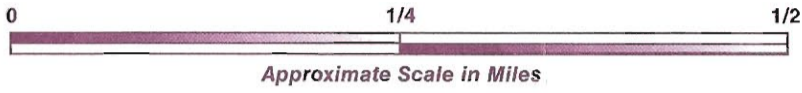
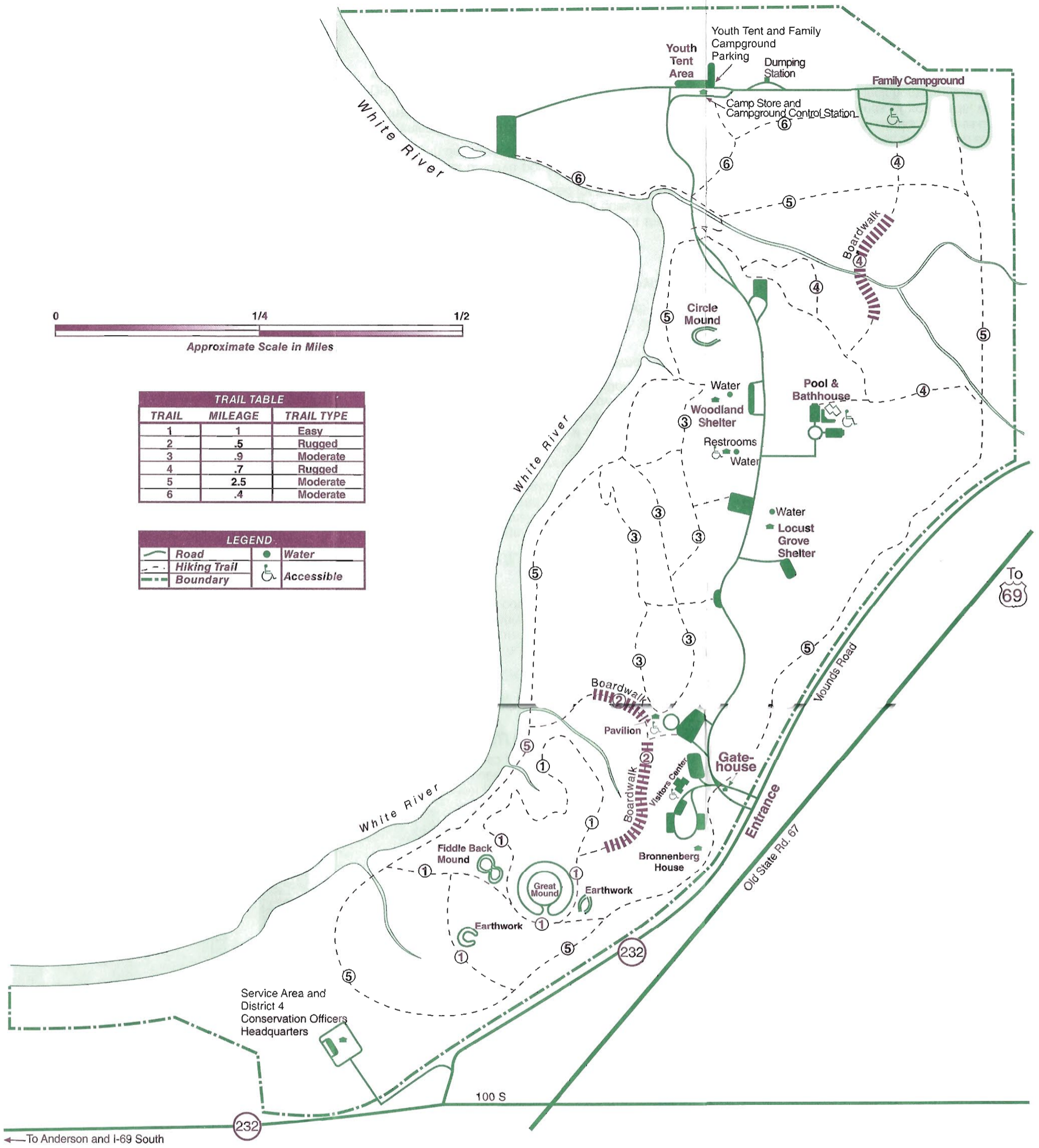
1. **EASY** (1 mile)—You will find the 20 most common trees in Indiana marked for your convenience along this trail. The trail also winds around four prehistoric mounds, one of which is the Great Mound, the focal point of the park. A tree guide and mounds history guide can be obtained at the Visitors Center.
2. **RUGGED** (.5 mile)—Begins at pavilion. Going to the left, it descends to a boardwalk that skirts a spring-fed creek and onto the backside of the Great Mound. When starting from behind the pavilion, it provides a shortcut down stairs to the White River and intersects with Trail 5.
3. **MODERATE** (.9 mile)—The trail descends into the woods from the first two parking lots on the left side of the road in the picnic area. It winds through the forest, providing views of different species of birds and animals. It intersects with Trail 5 and skirts the backside of the pavilion.
4. **RUGGED** (.7 mile)—Begins from the back parking lot at the pool. This trail is suited for the avid hiker because of its rugged terrain and steep hills. It can be traveled to and from the campground via a long boardwalk, which descends into a ravine with a creek and then climbs up the bluff. It provides a scenic overlook with all types of wildlife and many of our feathered friends. It intersects Trail 5 three times.
5. **MODERATE WITH HILLS** (2.5 miles)—Begins at the main gate and skirts the boundary of the park. It provides a scenic view as it follows along the White River and the limestone bluffs. One might catch glimpses of different types of waterfowl and aquatic life. It crosses several creeks and goes on into the woods, where all kinds of songbirds, along with upland game, make their home. This is a great trail for spring wildflower enthusiasts and for fans of the majestic hardwood trees that populate the forest. It is the longest and most popular trail in the park.
6. **MODERATE** (.4 mile)—Begins at the campground control station and leads to either the campground or the canoe launch area. This trail works great for campers who wants to fish or purchase minor items from the camp store. It's a great trail for a short hike and enjoying the outdoors.

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.  
BICYCLES PROHIBITED ON TRAILS.**



# MOUNDS STATE PARK

4306 Mounds Road • Anderson, IN 46017 • (765) 642-6627  
290 acres      Established 1930



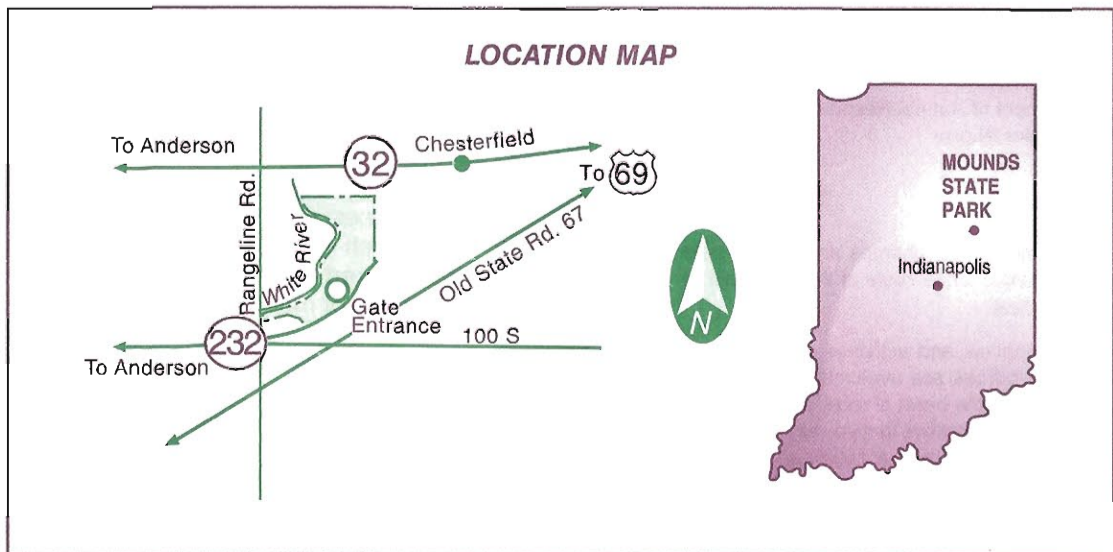
TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	1	Easy
2	.5	Rugged
3	.9	Moderate
4	.7	Rugged
5	2.5	Moderate
6	.4	Moderate

LEGEND	
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Boundary
	Water
	Accessible

Service Area and District 4 Conservation Officers Headquarters

232

← To Anderson and I-69 South



Printed on Recycled Paper

**RECYCLE**  
Place used beverage cans in the park's marked recycling containers. Thank you.

2/17/10

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**FAMILY CAMPING**—The campground is fully equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Each site provides a picnic table and grill. All campsites are Electric sites. A dumping station is also available. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Firewood for sale seasonally. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**YOUTH TENT AREA**—Primitive camping for church and other youth groups, scout troops, etc., under adult supervision. Equipped with water and vault toilets. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**FISHING**—White River—bass, bluegill, catfish, and more. State license required and may be purchased online at [IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov](http://IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov).

**HIKING**—Six miles of easy-to-rugged hiking on the park's six trails.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—A variety of activities are offered for the entire family year-round. Available by request for church, scout, school, and civic groups—inquire at Visitors Center, park office or gatehouse. Program schedules are available at [InterpretiveServices.IN.gov](http://InterpretiveServices.IN.gov) or by calling (765) 649-8128.

**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grills, restroom facilities, timberform playground equipment and open playfields are available.

**SHELTER HOUSES**—Two available year-round in picnic area. Use is either first-come, first-served, or shelter houses may be rented/reserved for specific date. Pavilion available April-December and must be reserved/rented for use. Includes chairs, tables, kitchen facilities, fireplace, restrooms. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

**SWIMMING**—Large, modern pool and bathhouse with splashpad, 500-person capacity. Open Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. Concessions available. Swimming not permitted elsewhere in the park.

**VISITORS CENTER**—Open year-round; includes property office, interpretive center, wildlife viewing room and modern restrooms. Interpretive center includes live animals, interactive exhibits for children and adults, display of Great Mound area and much more.

## CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM

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

[www.camp.IN.gov](http://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 online or by calling toll-free.

[IndianalInns.com](http://IndianalInns.com)  
**1-877-lodges1**  
(1-877-563-4371)



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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



**Write:** Mounds State Park  
4306 Mounds Road  
Anderson, IN 46017  
**Call:** (765) 642-6627

**DNR**

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
[dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov)

## SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park 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., W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.