

= Clark State Forest =

Clark State Forest , located just north of Henryville , Indiana in the United States , is Indiana 's oldest state forest , formed in 1903 as a forest research facility and a nursery and later expanded by the Works Progress Administration . Originally 2 @, @ 028 acres (8 km ²) of total land area , it is now almost 24 @, @ 000 acres (100 km²) and is bisected by Interstate 65 . It features three trails used exclusively for hikers trails : two internal trails , and the 59 @-@ mile (95 km) Knobstone Trail . There are nine horse trails , and five miles (8 km) of mountain bike trails . Two nature preserves are also situated within the forest . The forest also contains a 100 @-@ yard (91 m) outdoor gun range .

= History =

A concern around the turn of the 20th century was that many woodworking facilities in Indiana would be forced to close due to dwindling timber supplies . This wood was used by furniture makers and shipbuilders such as the Howard Shipyards . The timber industry was a major part of southern Indiana 's agricultural income , but thousands of acres had been deforested . In response to the problem , the state of Indiana decided to establish a series of state forests to ensure the continued existence of timber for woodworking facilities , and to allow Indiana to maintain its ability to export hardwood . The Indiana General Assembly in 1901 created the Indiana State Board of Forestry .

In May 1903 , the Indiana state government purchased 2 @, @ 028 acres (8 @. @ 21 km²) of forest in the north of Clark County , noted for its knob features (isolated conical hills) , for use as Indiana 's first state forest , at a cost of US \$ 16 @, @ 000 . Seedlings were planted at Clark State Forest , many of which were to be later moved to other parts of the state . This practice allowed more productive use of the land within the forest , and facilitated the teaching of the art of forestry . Charles C. Deam , a botanist who in 1909 became Indiana 's state forester , was in charge of making the state forest an experimental laboratory for 20th @-@ century forest care . Between the opening of the forest , and 1935 , over 150 different tree types were tested , many of which survive yet .

During the Great Depression , the Works Progress Administration chose to make Clark State Forest a training center for the Civilian Conservation Corps , and also made it Indiana 's largest CCC cantonment in November 1933 . They created artificial lakes within Clark State Forest , and built many bridges , to aid in water conservation , provide beauty spots within the forest , and teach forestry skills to members of the Civilian Conservation Corps . The state forest 's proximity to the Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot was key in the decision to focus so much attention on it .

= Features =

Having grown from its original 2 @, @ 028 acres (8 km²) , Clark State Forest now covers 24 @, @ 000 acres (97 km²) , with many roads and paths . The area also includes 100 miles (160 km) miles of horse trails , ranging from " easy " (for novice riders) to " rugged " (experienced riders only) . The existence of these horse trails is one reason why nearby Charlestown State Park did not include them in its development plans . Hunting is allowed , except in those areas designated specifically for more popular recreational activities . Species of wildlife of interest to hunters include deer , foxes , ruffed grouse , squirrels , turkeys , raccoons and woodcocks . All the campsites are by design primitive , and the only other areas in the forest that are allowed for camping are 100 feet (30 m) off the Knobstone Trail . Other recreational pursuits for visitors include hiking , biking , fishing and picnicking . All of these human activities are however of secondary importance to the primary function of the state forest , which is timber management .

Both native and non @-@ native tree saplings are grown within the forest . Trees officially allowed to be sold for lumber within the state forest are between 70 and 100 years old . Often , the chosen trees are felled to provide an area for native deer to live in the open , and to give smaller animals a brush area for their subsistence . Included in some protected areas are the White Oak (160 acres or

0 @. @ 6 km²) and the Chestnut Oak / Virginia Pine (20 acres) Nature Preserves . Other species of tree include black oak , black walnut , pignut hickory , sugar maples , and tulip trees . North of the Schlamm Lake is a fish hatchery .

The lakes of Clark State Forest include :

Bowen (7 acres or 2 @. @ 8 ha)

Franke (13 acres or 5 @. @ 3 ha)

Oak (2 @. @ 5 acres or 1 @. @ 0 ha)

Pine (2 acres or 0 @. @ 81 ha)

Schlamm (18 acres or 7 @. @ 3 ha)

Shaw (13 acres or 5 @. @ 3 ha)

Wilcox (5 acres or 2 @. @ 0 ha)