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## WELCOME TO THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

The Hoosier Hikers host this Seasonal walking event through the Online Start Box from March 1 to November 30, except for four Guided Group Walks at this event. Because the Indiana Dunes State Park is the busiest state park, especially during the months of June and July, the routes may be started from a primary or an alternate Start/Finish Point, which may be decided by the parking situation at the Park when you wish to do this event. Be aware that after 9:30 am (Central Time) (the Park is in the Central Time Zone and observes the changes to and from Daylight Savings Time) during June and July the wait time for entry to the Park may exceed an hour or more, and once you enter the Park you may be directed to an overflow parking area. To enter the Park, you will need to pay a gate fee, which is \$7 for Indiana plated vehicles, \$12 for out-of-state plated vehicles and \$2 for entry by cyclists and pedestrians.

Information for the four Guided Group Walks will only be available in local media and through the Hoosier Hiker Facebook page under EVENTS. The link to the Hoosier Hiker Facebook page is [Hoosier Hikers, Affiliate of the American Volkssport Association | Facebook](#).

Five distances are offered (5, 6, 7, 11 & 12 kilometers), depending your choice of Start/Finish Point. The written instructions are numbered to coincide with the maps. The 5-K route is a loop that will take you through the climax forest and wetlands at the backside of the Dunes. The climax forest results during the final phase of dune succession. The 6-K and 7-routes are essentially the same route, which comprises a loop that takes you through the Park's Western most Dunes, where you will witness the various early stages of dune succession. The 12-K route consists of the 5-K and 7-K loops, which start from the Primary Start/Finish point. The 11-K route consists of the 5-K and 6-K loops, which start from the Alternate Start/Finish Point. This event and its routes are sanctioned by the IVV through the AVA and qualify for credit toward IVV achievement awards. The routes may offer the opportunity to receive credit for the following special programs, as indicated:

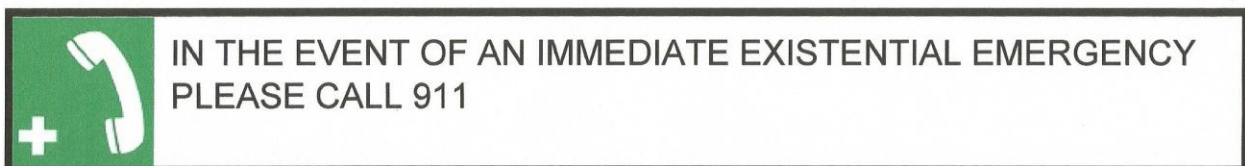
Walking the USA A-Z (ALL routes)

Par-for-the-Course (ALL Routes – This is the playground by Wilson Shelter)

To begin your adventure, you will need to travel to the Primary or Alternate Start/Finish Point. The Primary Start/Finish Point for this event is the Visitor Parking Area at the Nature Center, which has limited parking that usually fills up by 10 am. The Alternate Start Point is the parking area nearest the Wilson Shelter, which may be used for overflow parking. Upon entering the Park follow the signage to your desired Start/Finish Point.

Indiana State Route (SR) 49 is the only road leading to the Indiana Dunes State Park. SR 49 intersects with US 12, US 20, US 30, Interstate I-94 at Exit 26 and the Indiana Toll Road (I80/90) at Exit 31. At all intersections with SR 49 make the appropriate turn to follow SR 49 in a Northerly direction to the Indiana Dunes State Park at 1600 North 25 East, Chesterton, Indiana 46304. There is brown signage at each of the intersections on the five major highways directing traffic to the Park.

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For all events in an Indiana State Park during the year 2025 there is a 2-1/4-inch single die cast medal (the Header) with a scenic photo from an Indiana State Park. To this medal an identifying bar for the park may be attached. The bar may be purchased separately from the header. Events at other state parks will offer other identifying bars. Completion of the event and payment of the registration fee is required to receive the award. The on-site registration cost for the award is \$17 for the award, bar and IVV credit. The on-site registration cost for only the bar with IVV credit is \$9.

Because you have registered for the event through the AVA Online Start Box (OSB), the basic registration fee of \$4 will have been paid, when you have entered your event completion. The OSB does not collect funds for any awards. So, the cost of the award for someone, who registers through the OSB is \$13 for the header and bar, or \$5 for only the bar. If you wish to receive the award, please complete the form below and mail with payment to:

HOOSIER HIKERS  
C/O ROBERT BUZOLICH  
1703 E HOWARD ST  
SOUTH BEND, IN 46617-1826

Acceptable payments are checks and money orders payable to the HOOSIER HIKERS. NO CASH.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

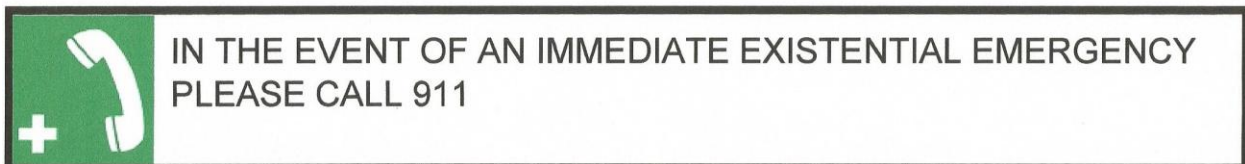
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE COMPLETED THE EVENT AT THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK (MA25/Y3640)  
AND WISH TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING (PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE):

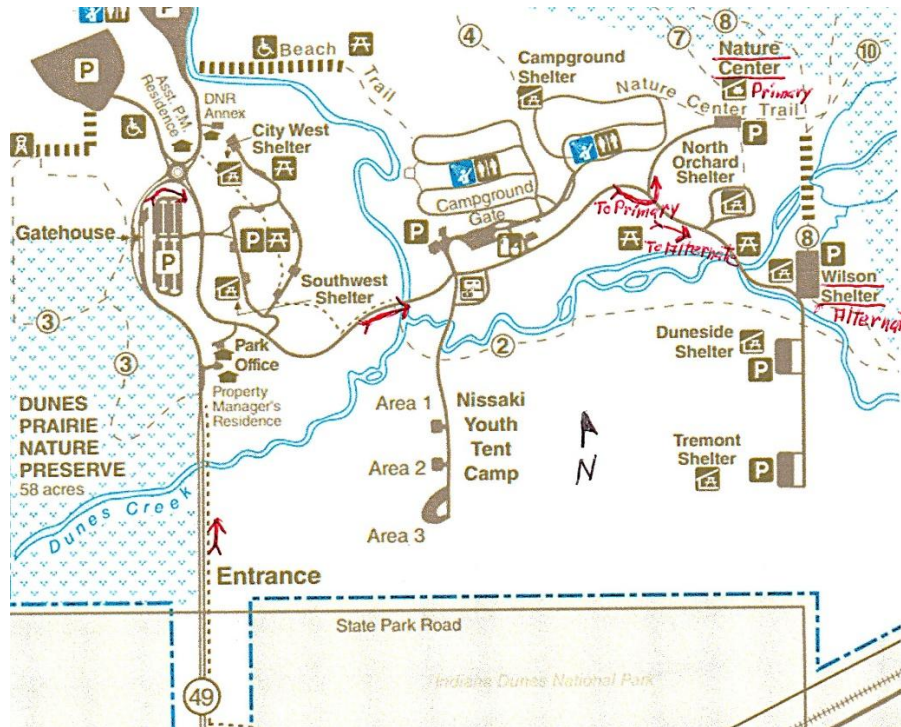
HEADER AND BAR	\$13.00
BAR ONLY	\$ 5.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

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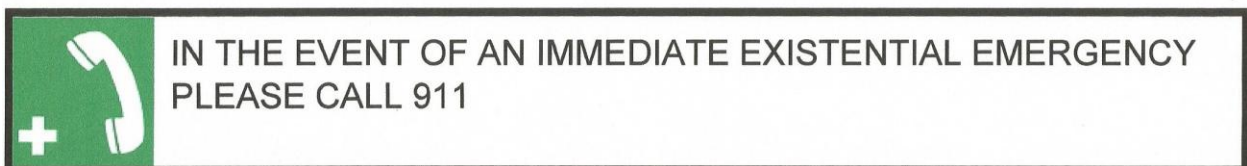
**WATER AND RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PRIMARY START POINT in the vicinity of the Nature Center, which is open 9 am to 4 pm (Central) daily, except holidays. However, ONLY A VAULT LATRENE IS AVAILABLE AT THE ALTERNATE START POINT. Additional restrooms and sources of water may be seasonally available along the 6-K/7-K route. So, plan accordingly.**

**ON ALL ROUTES SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.** All routes are primarily on improved, natural surface trails with sand and roots and boardwalks, which may be slippery during inclement weather. However, when necessary to walk on a street or road, please do so facing approaching traffic. All routes are intersected by roads, which should be crossed cautiously with personal safety in mind by using the available pedestrian crossings.

Pets may accompany you on your sojourn, but you must keep the pet leashed and recover your pet's waste.

If there is an existential injury producing accident on any of the routes, call 911 immediately. Once the existential threat has passed, contact the President of the Hoosier Hikers, Bob Buzolich, at 574-339-9140, or via email at [sonofbuzz@prodigy.net](mailto:sonofbuzz@prodigy.net) and complete an AVA incident form. For general information regarding this event, or Volkssporting, please contact Bob Buzolich at 574-339-9140 or via email at [sonofbuzz@prodigy.net](mailto:sonofbuzz@prodigy.net).

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**MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR 5-K ROUTE  
AT THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK  
FROM THE PRIMARY START/FINISH POINT**

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes State Park for the Hoosier Hiker's first Seasonal Walking Event, AVA Sanction Number MA25/Y3640. These maps and directions are for the Event's 5-kilometer route from the Primary Start/Finish Point at the Nature Center.

1) TO HIT THE TRAIL, after securing your vehicle, look in the direction of the Nature Center. To the right of the Nature Center, you will see the Nature Center Trail. Proceed to the Nature Center Trail and follow it to its intersection with Trail 10. Along the way, you will cross Trails 8 and 9.

2) Continue straight on Trail 10 in a Northeasterly direction to its intersection with a Connecting Trail to Trail 9.

3)) Where Trail 10 intersects with the Trail 9 Connector Trail, TURN RIGHT to continue on Trail 10 in an Easterly direction.

4) At the intersection of Trail 10 and Trail 2 TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 and follow it over the Board Walk and along the Southern Boundary of the Park.

5) ) At the intersection of Trail 2 and Trail 8 there is a sign pointing to Wilson Shelter and the Nature Center. TURN RIGHT onto Trail 8 and follow it in a Northerly direction. Along the way you will pass Wilson Shelter and cross a wetland on a boardwalk.

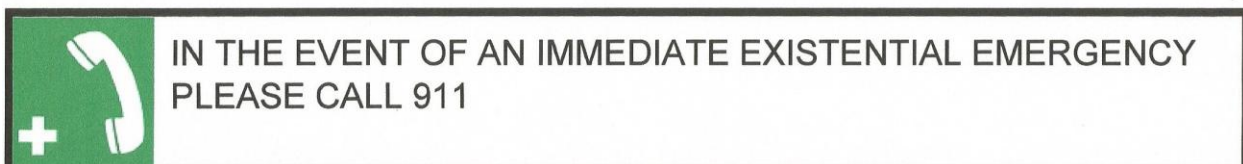
6) After coming off of the boardwalk, ANGLE RIGHT to continue along Trail 8. 6) At the intersection of Trail 8 and the Nature Center Trail and TURN LEFT onto the Nature Center Trail to return to the Primary Start/Finish.

Now that have completed the 5-kilometer route from the primary start/finish point, you may call it a day, or go on to do the 7-kilometer loop for a distance of 12-kilometers for the day.

**When you have completed this event, please return to the OSB to enter your event completion.**

With regard to item number 4 above, if you find Trail 2 to be temporarily closed at its intersection with Trail 10, just a quick heads up to everyone, who may be doing the Hoosier Hiker Seasonal Walk at the Indiana Dunes State Park during the next couple of weeks. You may find that Trail 2, which is more than half of the 5-K Loop, is temporarily closed at the intersection of Trail 2 and Trail 10. The closure effects the boardwalk through the wetlands. If you do this loop from either the Primary or Alternate Start Point, when you reach the point of closure, just turn around and return to your Start/Finish Point. The distance will be just a little under 4.5-K. Regardless, round your distance up to the nearest whole kilometer, which is 5-K. As you traverse Trail 10, you will notice many freshly fallen trees that have already been cleared from the Trail. It is estimated that the Trails effected by the severe weather of March 09 should be usable within the next week or two.

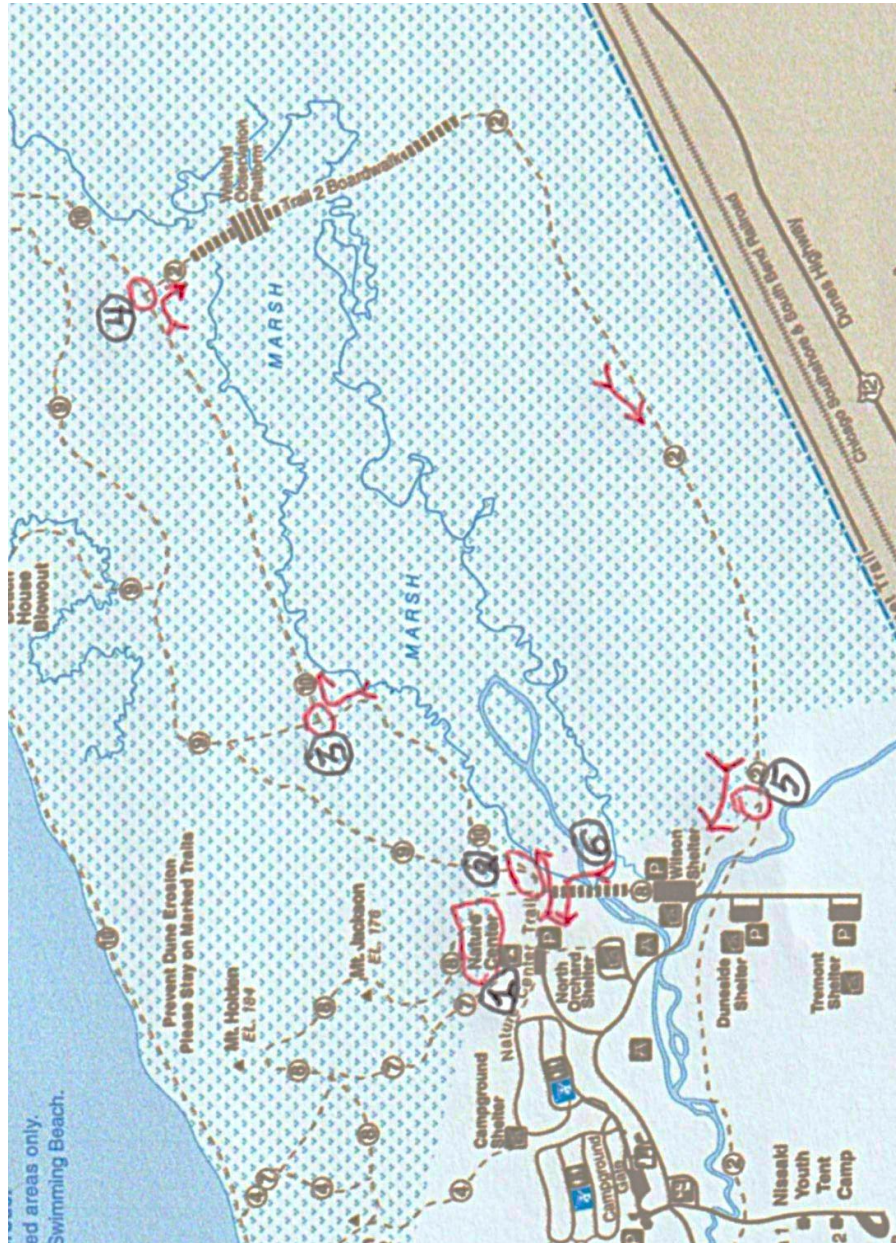
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### ENHANCED MAP DEPICTION OF 5-K ROUTE FROM PRIMAY S/F



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**MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR 5-K ROUTE  
AT THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK  
FROM THE ALTERNATE START/FINISH POINT**

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes State Park for the Hoosier Hiker's first Seasonal Walking Event, AVA Sanction Number MA25/Y3640. These maps and directions are for the Event's 5-kilometer route from the Alternate Start/Finish Point in the Wilson Shelter parking area.

1) TO HIT THE TRAIL, after securing your vehicle, look in the direction of the Wilson Shelter. To the right of Wilson Shelter, you will see a vault latrine and a board walk. Proceed to and onto the boardwalk to proceed along Trail 8.

2) After coming off of the boardwalk, ANGLE RIGHT continue along Trail 8. At the intersection of Trail 8 with the Nature Center Trail and Trails 9 and 10 TURN RIGHT onto Trail 10 to continue on Trail 10 in a Northeasterly direction. Continue straight on Trail 10 in a Northeasterly direction to its intersection with a Connecting Trail to Trail 9.

3)) Where Trail 10 intersects with the Trail 9 Connector Trail, TURN RIGHT to continue on Trail 10 in an Easterly direction.

4) At the intersection of Trail 10 and Trail 2 TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 and follow it over the Board Walk and along the Southern Boundary of the Park.

5) At the intersection of Trail 2 and Trail 8 there is a sign pointing to Wilson Shelter and the Nature Center. TURN RIGHT onto Trail 8 and follow it in a Northerly direction. As you approach Wilson Shelter, you return to the Alternate Start/Finish Point.

Now that have completed the 5-kilometer route from the alternate start/finish point, you may call it a day, or go on to do the 6-kilometer loop for a distance of 11-kilometers for the day.

**When you have completed this event, please return to the OSB to enter your event completion.**

With regard to item number 4 above, if you find Trail 2 to be temporarily closed at its intersection with Trail 10, just a quick heads up to everyone, who may be doing the Hoosier Hiker Seasonal Walk at the Indiana Dunes State Park during the next couple of weeks. You may find that Trail 2, which is more than half of the 5-K Loop, is temporarily closed at the intersection of Trail 2 and Trail 10. The closure effects the boardwalk through the wetlands. If you do this loop from either the Primary or Alternate Start Point, when you reach the point of closure, just turn around and return to your Start/Finish Point. The distance will be just a little under 4.5-K. Regardless, round your distance up to the nearest whole kilometer, which is 5-K. As you traverse Trail 10, you will notice many freshly fallen trees that have already been cleared from the Trail. It is estimated that the Trails effected by the severe weather of March 09 should be usable within the next week or two.

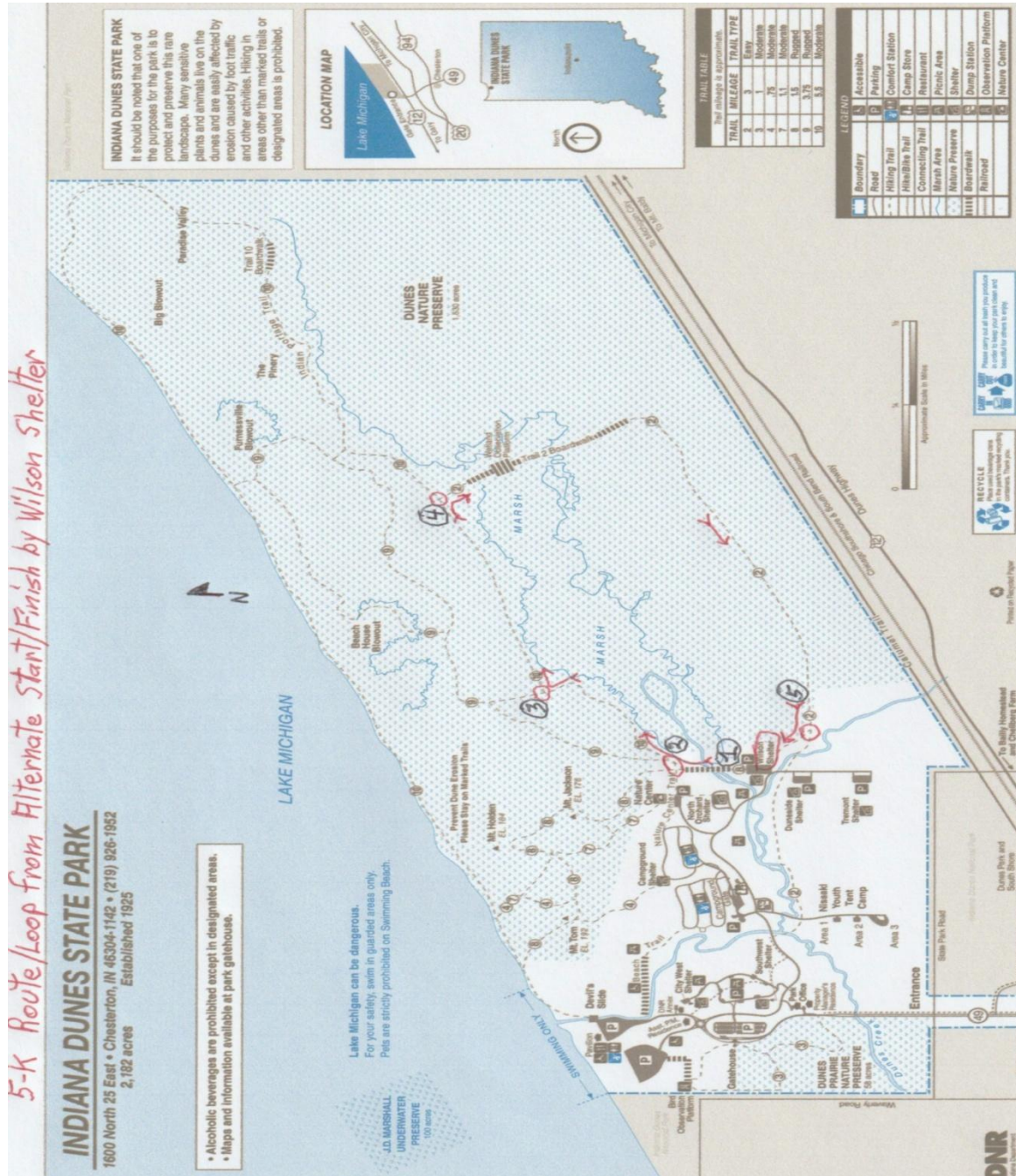
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### 5-K ROUTE MAP FROM ALTERNATE START/FINISH POINT

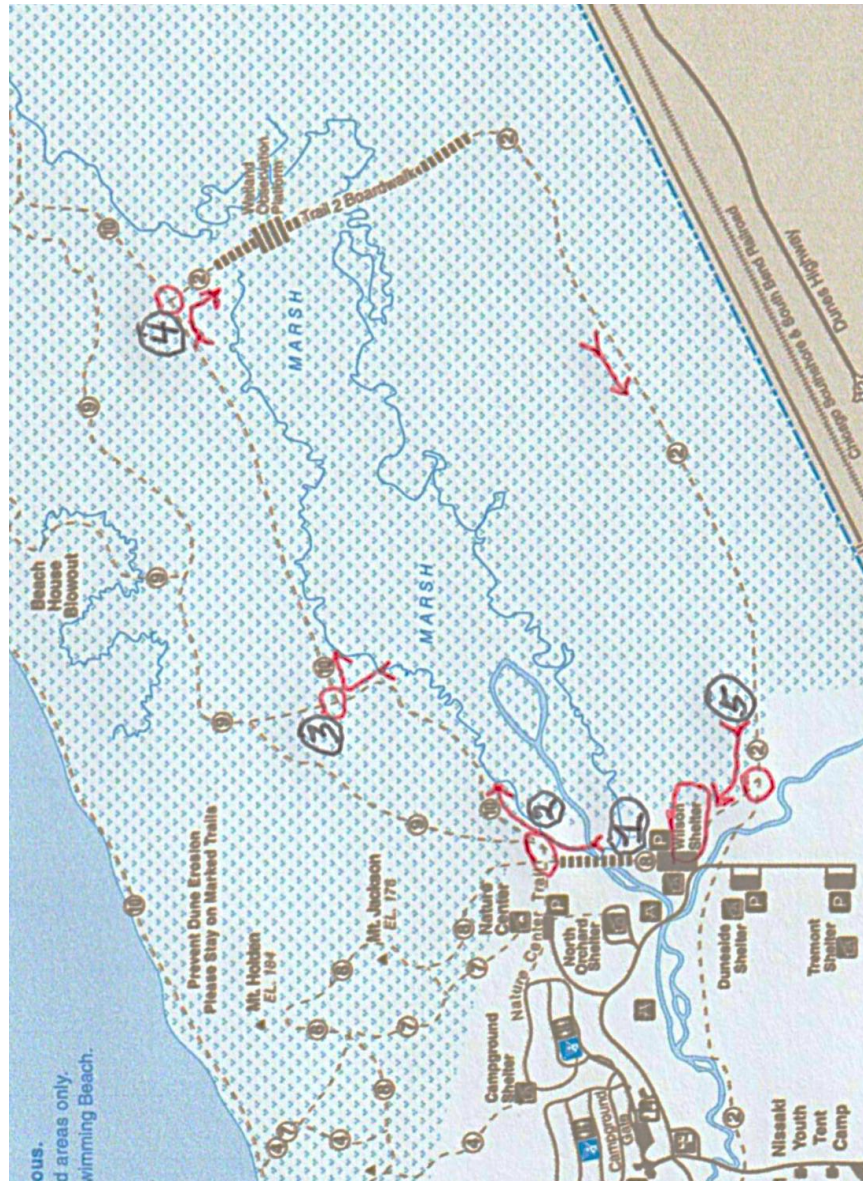


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### ENHANCED MAP DEPICTION OF 5-K ROUTE FROM ALTERNATE S/F



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**MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR 7-K ROUTE  
AT THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK  
FROM THE PRIMARY START/FINISH POINT**

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes State Park for the Hoosier Hiker's first Seasonal Walking Event, AVA Sanction Number MA25/Y3640. These maps and directions are for the Event's 7- kilometer route from the Primary Start/Finish Point in the Nature Center parking area.

1) TO HIT THE TRAIL, after securing your vehicle, look in the direction of the Nature Center. To the right of the Nature Center, you will see the Nature Center Trail. Proceed to the Nature Center Trail and follow it to its intersection with Trails 8, 9 and 10.

2) At the intersection of the four trails TURN RIGHT onto Trail 8 to proceed in a Southerly direction. Along the way, you will cross a boardwalk and pass Wilson Shelter. Continue straight using Tremont Road (no road sign) in the direction of Duneside Shelter and Tremont Shelter. As you continue and just before reaching Duneside Shelter, you will encounter the intersection of Tremont Road and Trail 2.

3) At the intersection of Tremont Road and Trail 2 TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 to proceed in a Westerly direction on Trail 2. Along the way, you will pass the road to Nissaki Youth Camp and cross the park road leading to the Nature Center. Please cross the park road cautiously and safely.

4) Upon crossing the park road TURN LEFT onto the connecting Trail to proceed toward the Southwest Shelter. From the Southwest Shelter proceed along the driveway in a Northerly direction to its intersection with the park road.

5) At the intersection of the driveway and the park road TURN LEFT to cautiously and safely cross the park road and proceed through the Beach Overflow Parking Area toward the Gatehouse.

6) Just before reaching the Gatehouse, you will encounter a bike/pedestrian path along the Eastern curb of State Route 49. TURN LEFT to proceed in a Southerly direction on the

bike/pedestrian path. Be cautious and aware. Walk single file, if a member of a group, facing the approaching bike and vehicular traffic. As you proceed toward the former historic gate houses, you will notice a Trail 3 Trailhead to your right and across the road.

7) TURN RIGHT TO CAUTIOUSLY AND SAFELY CROSS SR 49 to the Trail 3 Trailhead (BE CAUTIOUS OF ALL TRAFFIC ALONG SR 49. Many of the vehicles are Illinois plated). From the Trail 3 Trailhead proceed along Trail 3 through Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve.

8) At the first intersection encountered along Trail 3 TURN LEFT and continue along Trail 3 in a Westerly direction toward the Park's Western Boundary.

9) Upon reaching the Park's Western Boundary TURN RIGHT to continue along Trail 3 in a Northerly direction. Upon reaching the Bird Observation Platform Check it out (there are steps to the top) for some fantastic views of the Dunes, Beach, Birds and Lake Michigan.

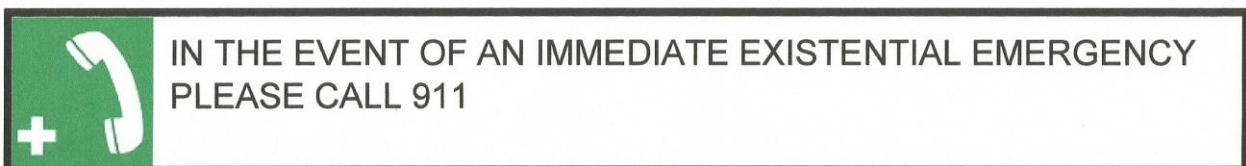
10) From the Bird Observation Platform proceed along the boardwalk to the parking area. Upon reaching the parking area TURN RIGHT to proceed through the parking area to the road taking you past the Assistant Park Manager's Residence and to the Traffic Circle.

11) Upon reaching the Traffic Circle, CAUTIOUSLY AND SAFELY go around the Traffic Circle until you encounter the sidewalk taking you to the Beach Overflow Parking Area. Proceed through the Beach Overflow Parking Area to its center.

12) At the Center of the Beach Overflow Parking Area face South (should be facing the approach of SR 49 into the Park) and TURN LEFT to retrace your steps from the Beach Overflow Parking Area back toward the Southwest Shelter. Continue on the drive past the Southwest Shelter until you reconnect with Trail 2.

13) TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 and proceed on Trail 2 to its intersection with Tremont Road. Along the way, you will need

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to safely cross the Park Road and the road to the Nissaki Youth Camp.

14) When Trail 2 intersects with Tremont Road, TURN LEFT and proceed in a Northerly direction back to Wilson Shelter.

15) Continue past Wilson Shelter onto the board walk to resume your walk along Trail 8.

16) After coming off of the boardwalk, ANGLE RIGHT to continue along Trail 8. 6) At the intersection of Trail 8 and the

Nature Center Trail and TURN LEFT onto the Nature Center Trail to return to the Primary Start/Finish.

Now that you have completed the 7-kilometer route from the primary start/finish point, you may call it a day, and record 7-K in your Distance Record Book, if it was the only loop that you did, or 12-K, if you did both the 5- and 7-K loops.

**When you have completed this event, please return to the OSB to enter your event completion.**

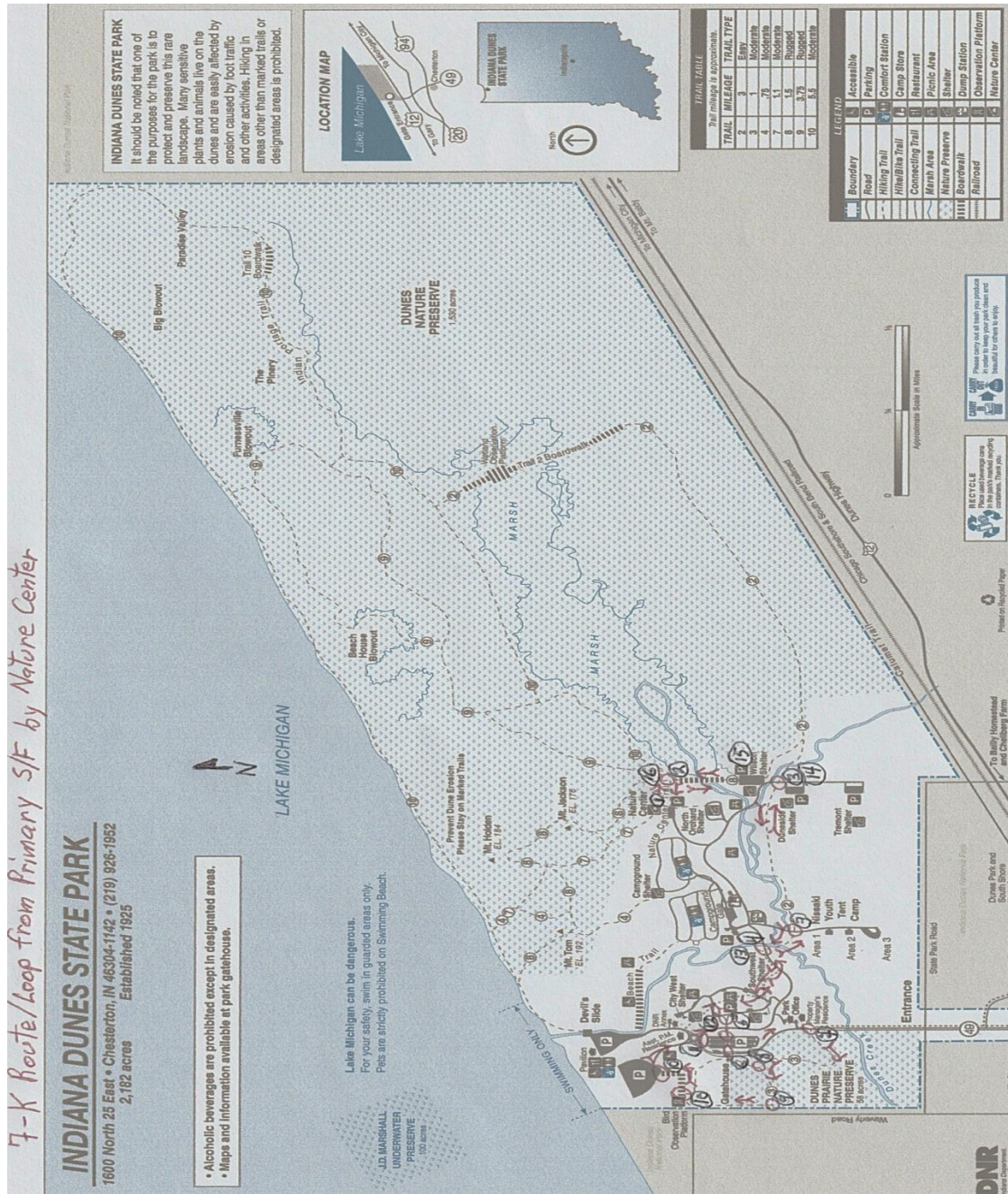
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## 7-K ROUTE MAP FROM PRIMARY START/FINISH POINT

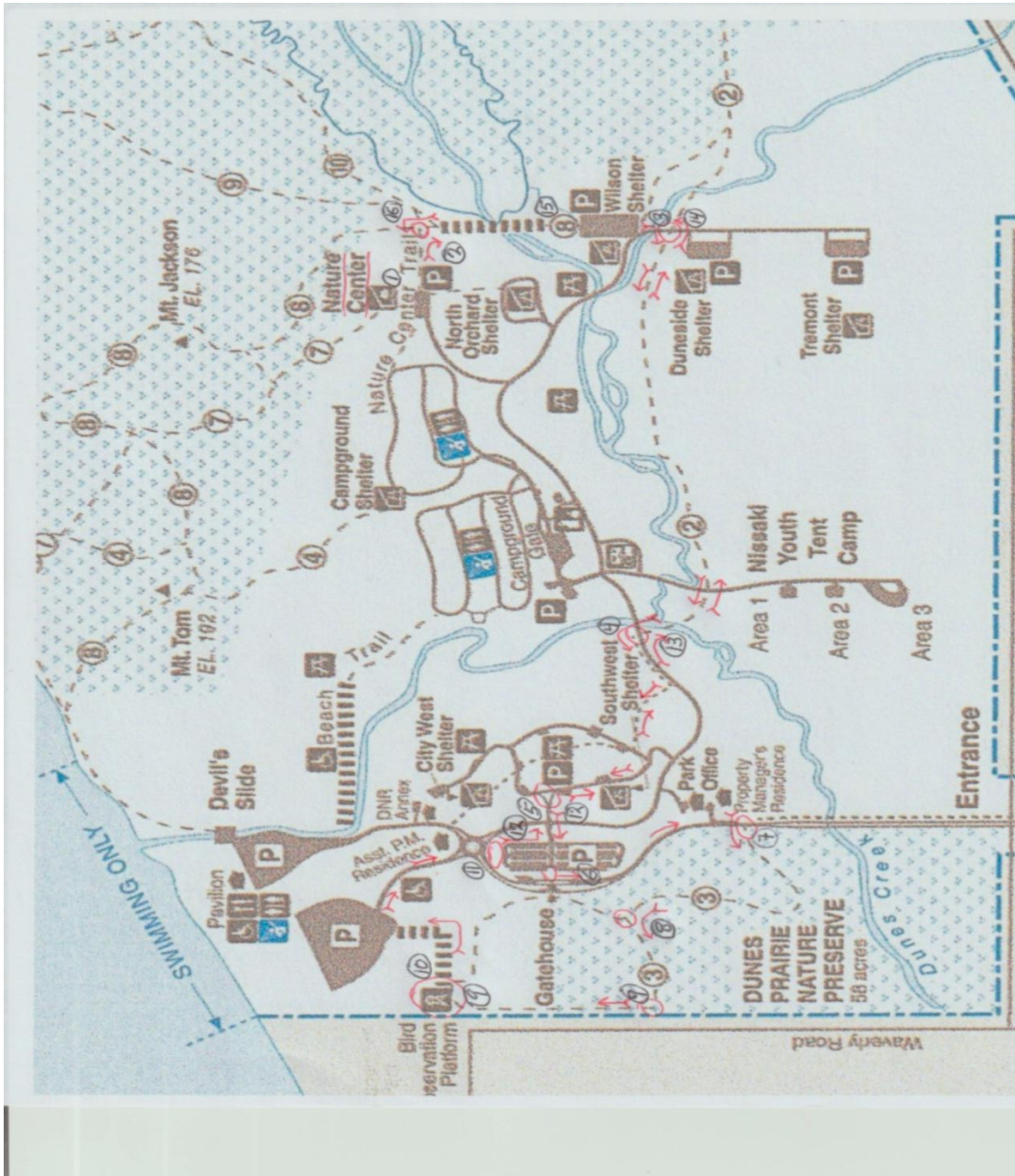


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**MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR 6-K ROUTE  
AT THE INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK  
FROM THE ALTERNATE START/FINISH POINT**

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes State Park for the Hoosier Hiker's first Seasonal Walking Event, AVA Sanction Number MA25/Y3640. These maps and directions are for the Event's 6-kilometer route from the Alternate Start/Finish Point by The Wilson Shelter parking area.

1) TO HIT THE TRAIL, after securing your vehicle, look due South from the Wilson Shelter and you will see a road heading South. This road is Tremont Road (no road sign), which takes Park Visitors to the Duneside and Tremont Shelters. Proceed straight in a Southerly Direction on Tremont Road in the direction of Duneside Shelter and Tremont Shelter. As you continue and just before reaching Duneside Shelter, you will encounter the intersection of Tremont Road and Trail 2.

2) At the intersection of Tremont Road and Trail 2 TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 to proceed in a Westerly direction on Trail 2. Along the way, you will pass the road to Nissaki Youth Camp and cross the park road leading to the Nature Center. Please cross the park road cautiously and safely.

3) Upon crossing the park road TURN LEFT onto the connecting Trail to proceed toward the Southwest Shelter. From the Southwest Shelter proceed along the driveway in a Northerly direction to its intersection with the park road.

4) At the intersection of the driveway and the park road TURN LEFT to cautiously and safely cross the park road and proceed through the Beach Overflow Parking Area toward the Gatehouse.

5) Just before reaching the Gatehouse, you will encounter a bike/pedestrian path along the Eastern curb of State Route 49. TURN LEFT to proceed in a Southerly direction on the bike/pedestrian path. Be cautious and aware. Walk single file, if a member of a group, facing the approaching bike and vehicular traffic. As you proceed toward the former historic

gate houses, you will notice a Trail 3 Trailhead to your right and across the road.

6) TURN RIGHT TO CAUTIOUSLY AND SAFELY CROSS SR 49 to the Trail 3 Trailhead (BE CAUTIOUS OF ALL TRAFFIC ALONG SR 49. Many of the vehicles are Illinois plated). From the Trail 3 Trailhead proceed along Trail 3 through Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve.

7) At the first intersection encountered along Trail 3 TURN LEFT and continue along Trail 3 in a Westerly direction toward the Park's Western Boundary.

8) Upon reaching the Park's Western Boundary TURN RIGHT to continue along Trail 3 in a Northerly direction. Upon reaching the Bird Observation Platform Check it out (there are steps to the top) for some fantastic views of the Dunes, Beach, Birds and Lake Michigan.

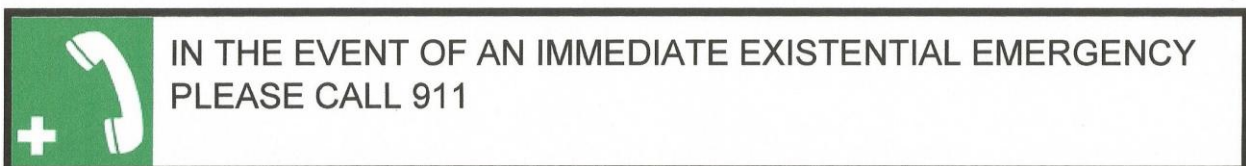
9) From the Bird Observation Platform proceed along the boardwalk to the parking area. Upon reaching the parking area TURN RIGHT to proceed through the parking area to the road taking you past the Assistant Park Manager's Residence and to the Traffic Circle.

10) Upon reaching the Traffic Circle, CAUTIOUSLY AND SAFELY go around the Traffic Circle until you encounter the sidewalk taking you to the Beach Overflow Parking Area. Proceed through the Beach Overflow Parking Area to its center.

11) At the Center of the Beach Overflow Parking Area face South (should be facing the approach of SR 49 into the Park) and TURN LEFT to retrace your steps from the Beach Overflow Parking Area back toward the Southwest Shelter. Continue on the drive past the Southwest Shelter until you reconnect with Trail 2.

12) TURN RIGHT onto Trail 2 and proceed on Trail 2 to its intersection with Tremont Road. Along the way, you will need to safely cross the Park Road and the road to the Nissaki Youth Camp.

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13) When Trail 2 intersects with Tremont Road, TURN LEFT and proceed in a Northerly direction back to Wilson Shelter. As you approach Wilson Shelter, you return to the Alternate Start/Finish Point.

Now that you have completed the 6-kilometer route from the alternate start/finish point, you may call it a day, and record

6-K in your Distance Record Book, if it was the only loop that you did, or 11-K, if you did both the 5- and 6-K loops.

**When you have completed this event, please return to the OSB to enter your event completion.**

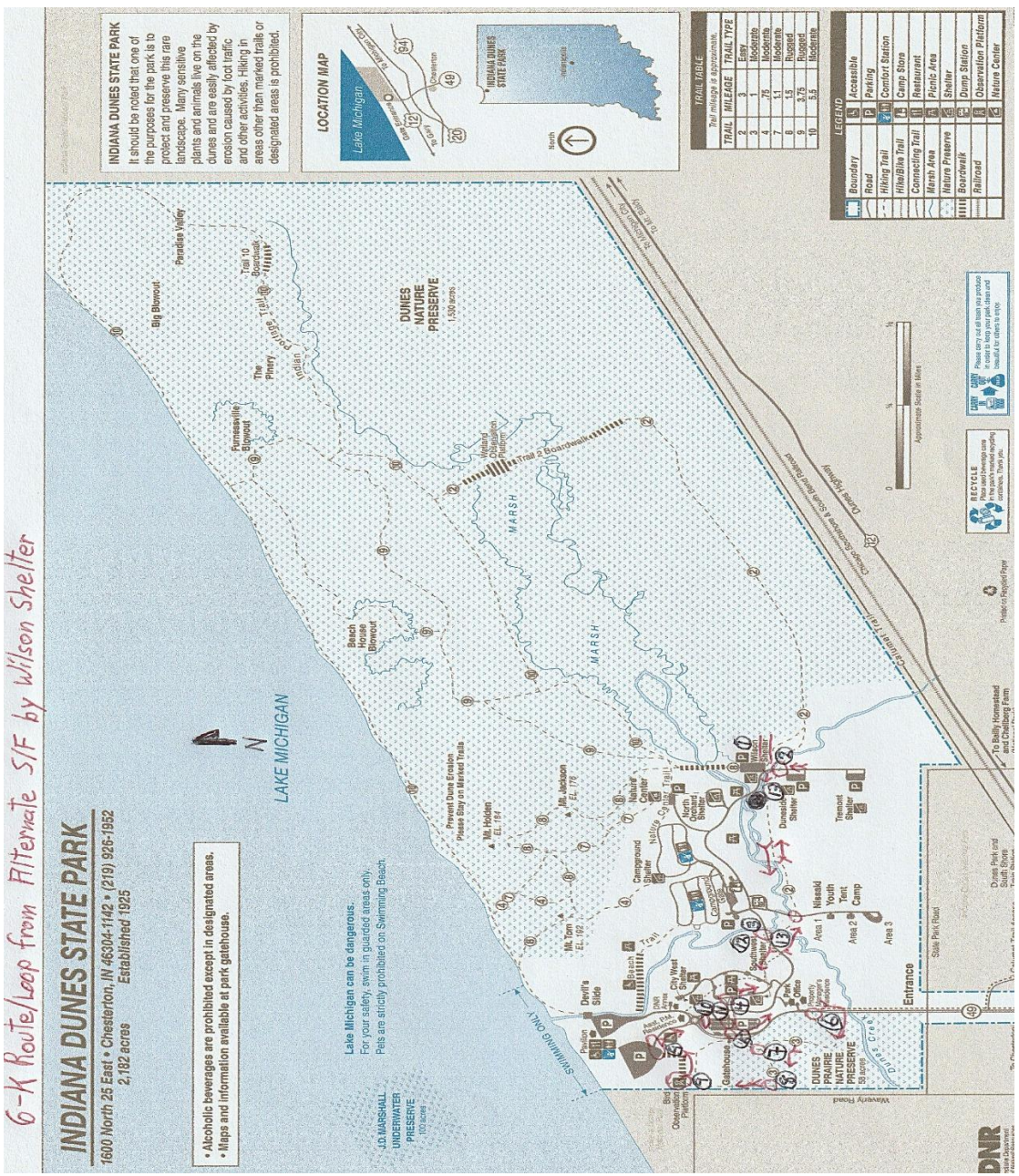
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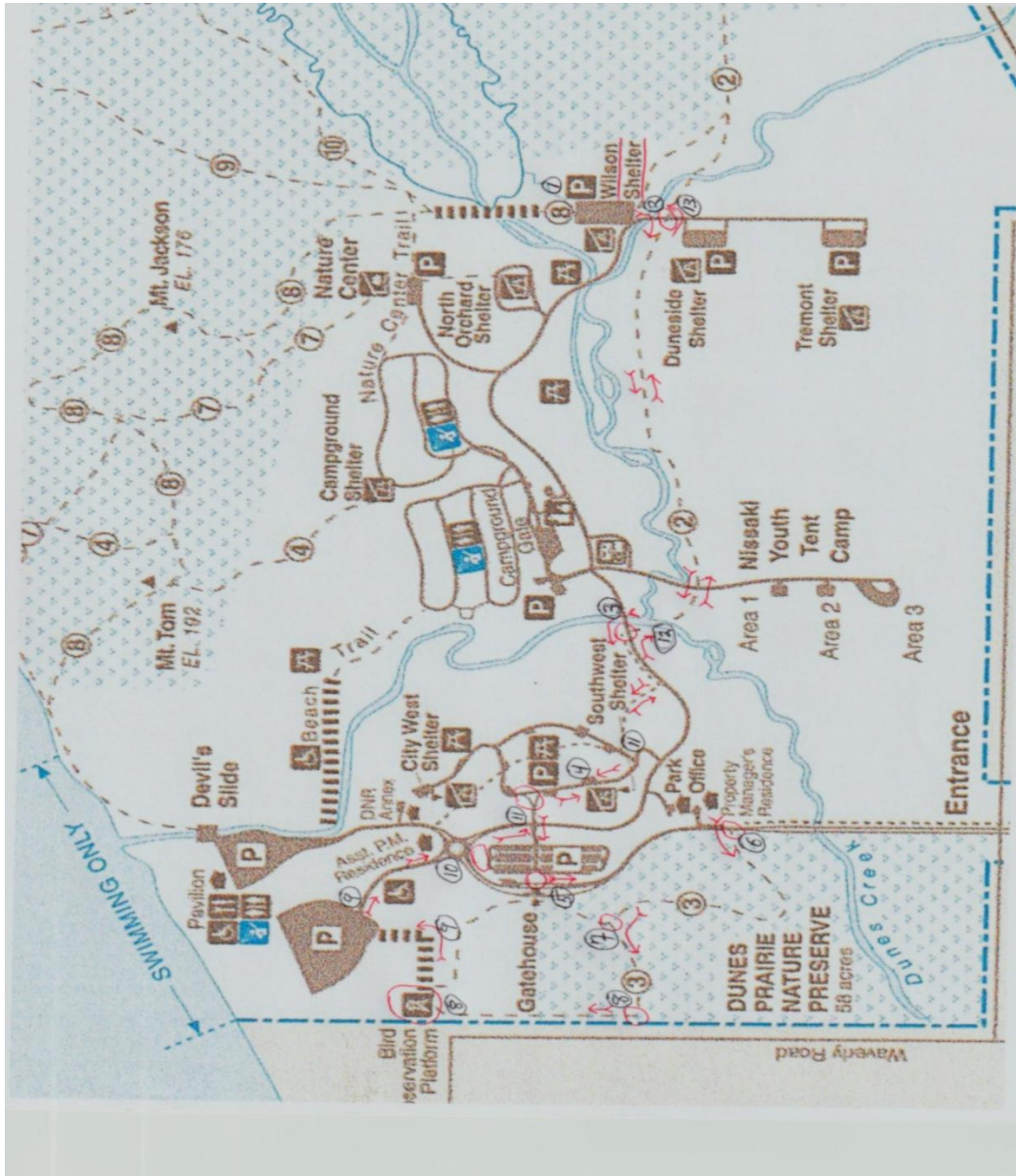
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6-K ROUTE MAP FROM ALTERNATE START/FINISH POINT



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