

of organisms. The mushroom we see is only the reproductive part of a larger fungus below the surface of the soil. Mushrooms come in all shapes and sizes, but their function is the same—reproduction. Once they emerge from the ground they release spores. Mushrooms are like a flower or fruit of a plant but instead of producing pollen or seeds, they produce spores. Fungi usually only grow mushrooms when there is moisture. Have you seen any?

11. GRAPE VINES

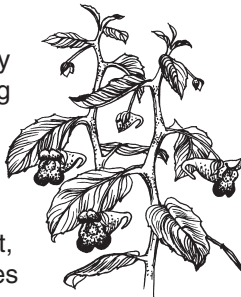
As you look around, you may notice many thick woody vines hanging from the trees. These are wild grape vines. They climb to the tops of the trees in order to reach sunlight. As they spread out and become heavier, they can damage the trees, forcing them to bend over, and sometimes break off. Other vines also climb trees. Some of these include poison ivy and Virginia creeper. These vines do not hang down from the trees as grapevines do, but instead climb tightly against the tree trunk. Notice the long, shreddy bark of the grapevine. Some birds use it when building their nests.

12. OLD TREES

Portions of Turkey Run State Park contain virgin forests, meaning they have never been logged. As you hike along the trail, you will see some of these very large trees that can be hundreds of years old. Beech trees are easy to identify because they have smooth gray bark and, unfortunately, they often have lots of carvings. Besides being unpleasant to look at, carvings can injure and even kill a tree. The bark of a tree acts as a barrier and protects the living cells inside from injury and disease. Carving into a tree opens an entrance for pathogens, which can make a tree sick or in some cases die. Whether it's rocks or trees or anything else, carving is vandalism and is illegal. Thank you for not carving into our trees.

13. WILDFLOWERS

From spring through fall, many wildflowers can be found along the trails and can carpet the woodlands of the park. Dozens of species of wildflowers call Turkey Run home and each time you visit, there may be different species



in bloom. Look closely at the flowers and you may see insects busy collecting nectar and pollinating the plants.

14. HEMLOCK FOREST

As you continue you will notice a difference in the forest. Hemlock forests like this one once covered much of Indiana during a much colder glacial period around 12,000 years ago, during the Pleistocene epoch. Now only small patches are left in Indiana. Unlike deciduous trees that lose their leaves after each growing season, these hemlocks are coniferous and are green throughout the year. Notice the lack of vegetation under these hemlock trees. Hemlock needles tend to make the soil acidic, which prevents other plants from growing and encourages young hemlock seedlings to take root. This slope faces north. A north facing slope is usually moist and cool. The hemlocks feel at home here because the conditions are similar to those in northern forests found in Michigan or Canada. Look across the creek and notice that beech and maples grow on the warmer south facing slope.



15. SAND BAR

Gaze down at the sandbar in Sugar Creek. Notice the different types of trees that are growing on the sandbar. The trees are water-loving trees, such as cottonwood, sycamore, and sandbar willow. These trees are able to withstand the constant flooding. Sycamores, with the distinctive peeling bark and white branches, can grow extremely large, but because the sandbar is constantly shifting, they tend to eventually uproot.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You are back to where we started and you have completed the self-guided hike of Trail 7. We hope you enjoyed your hike. Ascend the stairs to your left to return to Sunset Point or take Trail 6 to your right to go through Turkey Run Hollow.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS SELF-GUIDED TRAIL!

Turkey Run State Park has been a Hoosier favorite for over 100 years, but did you know Shades State Park is located less than a 20 minute drive away? Though not as well known or as visited as Turkey Run, Shades shares much of the same natural splendor, geology, and ecosystems. If you enjoyed your visit to Turkey Run, we invite you to explore Shades next time.

At Shades hike through 7 ravines, admire 3 named waterfalls, stay overnight in the non-electric or youth campground, marvel at the scenic overlook at Prospect Point, paddle on Sugar Creek, or explore Pine Hills—Indiana's first dedicated nature preserve. Other facilities available for visitors to enjoy include a backpack and canoe campground, fishing pond, picnic shelters, and public access site at the Deer's Mill Covered Bridge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Turkey Run State Park
8121 Park Rd
Marshall, IN 47859
Call: (765) 597-2635
Online: stateparks.IN.gov



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



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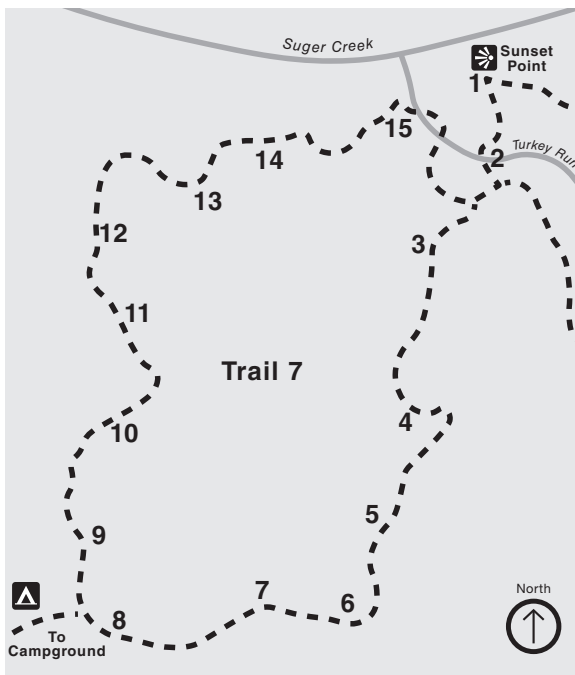
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TURKEY RUN STATE PARK

SELF-GUIDED HIKE TRAIL 7



FOR MORE INFO
stateparks.IN.gov



WELCOME TO THE TURKEY RUN STATE PARK SELF-GUIDED TRAIL

Trail 7 is a 0.7 mile moderate loop trail that begins and ends below Sunset Point on the southwest side of the park. Trail 7 is also the only trail that connects to the campground. It takes the average hiker about one hour to complete this trail. Trail 7 is a great hike that combines all the features Turkey Run is known for: the sandstone canyons, virgin forest, hemlock stands, and views of Sugar Creek.

This brochure will serve as your guide and will describe the features found along the trail. If you go quietly and are observant, you will probably be able to see and hear many woodland animals. Please do not disturb any plants or animals so that others may also enjoy the trail. Please do not litter as well. If you have any questions about the trail please contact the Interpretive Naturalist at the Nature Center.

TRAIL ENTRANCE

Trail 7 begins at Sunset Point behind Turkey Run Inn. The descriptions in this brochure correspond to 15 numbered stops on the map of the trail. Enjoy your hike!

Please note: If you are starting the Self-Guided Trail from the campground, start at #9. You will proceed from #9 through #15 and the end of the Self-Guided Trail. To return to the campground, continue from #15 to #1 through #8.

1. SUNSET POINT – SUGAR CREEK

Sugar Creek runs through Turkey Run State Park. Sugar Creek flows into the Wabash River, then to the Ohio River, and eventually into the Mississippi River, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The creek provides a pathway for seasonally migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Many animals and plants depend on this creek for water, food, and shelter.



| Cross the bridge at the bottom of the steps.

2. TURKEY RUN

You have just crossed “Turkey Run,” the small “run” or stream after which Turkey Run was named many years ago. One story about how Turkey Run got its name says that wild turkeys, finding it warmer in the canyon bottoms, would often huddle there to stay warm. Pioneer hunters would herd the turkeys through these natural funnels into a central location for an easy harvest. Historic accounts suggest that a large numbers of turkeys lived in the area, prompting its name.



| After crossing the bridge, take a right until the path forks. Go into the ravine on the left to begin Trail 7.

3. SANDSTONE BEDROCK

The exposed bedrock here is Mansfield sandstone, named after the nearby town of Mansfield, Indiana. This deposit was formed during the Carboniferous Period over 300 million years ago, when a buildup of sand at the mouth of the ancient Michigan River was slowly compacted and cemented into solid rock.

4. CANYON FORMATION

In more recent history, during the Pleistocene Epoch (2 million—12,000 years ago), the sandstone bedrock was carved into today’s familiar canyons and formations by the eroding actions of glacial meltwaters. These cliffs provide habitat for many organisms. Many species of birds, such as doves and swallows, build their nests on the rock ledges. Ferns, mosses, liverworts, and lichens coat the rocks. In areas that people can reach, the rock is devoid of life. These primitive plants cannot survive in disturbed area. This is why rock climbing is prohibited within the park. Do your part in protecting Turkey Run by staying on marked trails and off of our rock walls.

5. LICHENS, MOSSES, LIVERWORTS

The canyon’s conditions are ideal for lichens, mosses, and liverworts. Note the abundance of plants growing on the canyon walls. The liverworts are the blunt-tipped leafy plants that branch into many projections. A lichen is actually two organisms growing together for mutual benefit: an alga and a fungus. This is known as a symbiotic relationship. These pioneer plants provide a good environment for a seed to grow. Do you see any plants growing from the mosses?

6. CANYON TEMPERATURE CHANGE

As you ascend the stairs out of the canyon, you may notice a temperature change. In the summer, it is much cooler in the canyon as cold air settles down and hot air rises. In the winter, the canyons are a little warmer and protected from the cold wind.

7. UPLAND FOREST

At the top of the stairs you have now entered into an upland forest. Here you will find deciduous trees like oaks, hickories, maples, and beeches dominating the forest. The trees are among the oldest living elements of Turkey Run. Because these trees are

so long-lived, we often think of forests as constant, but forests undergo change from season to season and year to year. There is also competition between these trees for space, water, nutrients, and light—elements needed to survive and reproduce. This silent struggle to live is all around you.



8. DECOMPOSERS

As you hike along you may notice fallen logs on the forest floor. These are good examples of nature’s recycling process. Nothing is wasted in this ecosystem. Fallen logs are slowly being turned back into soil by decomposers. Fungi as well as many animals that live in the dead logs, such as ants, termites, and beetles, help to break down the log. If you come back in several years, these logs will have been turned completely back into soil.



| To the left the trail connects to the campground. Our campground at Turkey Run has its own entrance, and you can drive into the park or use Trail 7 to walk in.

9. TREE SNAGS

Dead trees are called snags and are an important part of a healthy forest ecosystem. Many species of birds, mammals, insects, and amphibians depend on dead hollow trees for homes, food, or temporary shelters. Without dead or dying trees, species such as woodpeckers, owls, raccoons, and many others would not be found here. Would you want to live somewhere without a home?

10. FOREST FUNGI

You may notice fungi in various places along the trail. Fungi are not plants nor animals but belong to their own kingdom or classification

