

WINTER ACTIVITIES

When the cold winds blow and the snow falls, a whole new world of adventure opens up in Indiana Dunes Country.

Coffee Creek Park

In the wintertime, this park becomes a prime spot for sledding. It's located right next to the historic Chesterton business district, so after a day of hurtling down the hill, you can warm up at one of the nearby restaurants or coffeehouses—they're just a short walk away.

Hours: Dawn-dusk

GPS: Lat: 41.6086 Long: -87.0489

Address: 246 E Morgan Ave
Chesterton, IN 46304

Phone: 219-926-3000

Web: chestertonin.org **Cost:** Free

Activities: Sledding, Tubing

Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

With five miles of trails winding through prairies, creeks, wetlands and woodlands, this preserve has plenty of adventures in store for a cross-country skier. If you start to feel a bit chilly, take a break and warm up at the fireplace in the public shelter.

Hours: Dawn-dusk

GPS: Lat: 41.5850 Long: -87.0421

Address: State Road 49 and Voyage
Boulevard, Chesterton, IN 46304

Phone: 219-926-1842 **Find us on Facebook**

Cost: Free

Activities: Skiing



Countryside Park

Tromp along 33 acres of history at this park, home to the Alton Goin Museum and the Portage Historical Society. The hills offer great sledding and tubing, and its fishing pond is always dotted with ice fishers, even in the coldest months.

Hours: Dawn-dusk

GPS: Lat: 41.5506 Long: -87.2115

Address: 5250 US Highway 6,
Portage, IN 46868

Phone: 219-762-1675

Web: ci.portage.in.us **Cost:** Free

Activities: Sledding, Tubing, Ice Fishing



Cowles Bog

Cowles Bog has 4.5 miles of trails taking you through a marsh surrounding a small fen and straight out to the lakeshore. Don't have skis? No problem! Cowles Bog is a great location to take a refreshing winter hike to view the winter shelf ice.

Hours: Sunday – Saturday 9:00am to 4:00pm

GPS: +41.6453, -87.0846

Address: North Mineral Springs Rd, Porter IN 46304

Phone: 219-395-1882

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/cowles-bog.htm> (shown as www.nps.gov)

Activities: Skiing, snowshoeing



Forest Park

This popular sledding hill is part of the Forest Park Golf Course. In the winter, the hills along Harrison Boulevard are open for tubing and sledding. It's one of the most popular hills in Valparaiso—be prepared for lively crowds.

Hours: Dawn-dusk

GPS: Lat: 41.4808 Long: -87.0718

Address: 851 Harrison Boulevard,
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: 219-462-5144

Web: valparaisoparks.org **Cost:** Free

Activities: Sledding, Tubing



Hawthorne Park

The area near the north side of the community center is transformed into an outdoor ice rink when the weather cooperates. The rink is lighted, and the community center will open during skating times for a warming area and restrooms. Check website for times. Park is also site of cross-country skiing and a small sledding hill.

Hours: Vary depending on activity; see website
GPS: Lat: 41.62103 Long: -87.06625
Address: 500 Ackerman Drive, Porter, IN 46304
Phone: 219-921-1687
Web: townofporter.com **Cost:** Free
Activities: Skating, Skiing, Sledding

Hebron Ice Rink

Strap on your blades and twirl around this outdoor skating rink. It opens for the season as soon as the ice has frozen to a minimum of 4 inches, and stays open as long as weather permits—call the town hall or visit the website to find out if the rink will be open during your stay.

Hours: Dawn-dusk, weather permitting
GPS: Lat: 41.333 Long: -87.1997
Address: 199 Professional Court, Hebron, IN 46341
Phone: 219-996-4641
Web: visithebron.org **Cost:** Free
Activities: Ice skating



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Cross-country skiing is available on all of the park trails. The Glenwood Dunes Trail, with its warming shelter and loops ranging from 1 to 6.4 miles long, is definitely the can't-miss spot—although the Tolleston Dunes trail is a close second.

Hours: 7am-dusk
GPS: Glenwood Dunes Trail (Lat: 41.3891 Long: -87.0089), Tolleston Dunes (Lat: 41.6150 Long: -87.1927)
Address: Glenwood Dunes Trail (US Highway 20, just west of 275 East, Chesterton, IN 46304), Tolleston Dunes (US Highway 12, two miles west of State Road 249, Portage, IN 46368)
Phone: 219-395-1882
Web: www.nps.gov/indu **Cost:** Free
Activities: Skiing, Snowshoeing



Indiana Dunes State Park

Hiking and biking trails transform into cross-country skiing and snowshoeing paths once the snow falls. Spend an afternoon swishing through the landscape, catching glimpses of wildlife in this serene setting. If sledding is your thing, be sure to hit the Devil's Slide—once winter comes, this sand dune transforms into a wicked fun tubing and sledding hill.

Hours: 7am-11pm
GPS: Lat: 41.6566 Long: -87.0626
Address: 1600 North 25 East, Chesterton, IN 46304 (State Road 49, north of U.S. Highway 12)
Phone: 219-926-1952
Web: in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm
Cost: Free on weekdays in winter
During the year and weekends:
Indiana resident: \$5/car **Out of state:** \$10/car
Camping: Seven days a week: \$17.34 per night winter rate
Annual Entrance Passes: Indiana resident: \$40.00; Out of state: \$60.00; Golden Hoosier: \$20.00
Activities: Sledding, Tubing, Skiing, Ski Rental



Imagination Glen Park

Once the snow falls, winter enthusiasts can set off on three miles of cross-country trails that loop through this 256-acre park. The trails are clearly marked, and are divided into difficulty from beginner to advanced.

Hours: Dawn-dusk
GPS: Lat: 41.5853 Long: -87.1439
Address: 2275 McCool Road, Portage, IN 46368
Phone: 219-762-1675
Web: ci.portage.in.us **Cost:** Free
Activities: Skiing

Rogers-Lakewood Park

The park has nearly four miles of cross-country skiing trails, and a huge sledding hill—it's got three chutes for sledding and tubing and one chute for tobogganing. Atop the hill, there's a winter shelter and a concessions stand. There's also ice fishing atop the park's lakes.

Hours: Dawn-dusk
GPS: Lat: 41.5166 Long: -87.0659
Address: 5320 North Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-462-5144
Web: valparaisoparks.org **Cost:** Free
Activities: Sledding, Tubing, Skiing, Ice Fishing



Santa's Holiday Forest

Cut down a fresh Christmas tree for your home (or pick up a fresh-cut one), go on a wagon ride, enjoy hot chocolate and hot dogs, and get into the Christmas spirit at this tree farm. Everyone who comes through the door gets a free gift from Santa's helpers!

Hours: 7am-7pm, Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve
GPS: Lat: 41.5354 Long: -87.0482
Address: 95 East 700 North, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-462-1068, 219-916-5973 or 800-624-1068
Web: santasholidayforest.info
Cost: Free; cost of trees vary



Sunset Hill Farm County Park

This former dairy farm transforms into a cross-country skiing trail that winds its way through 286 acres. Don't miss the park's holiday lights festival that kicks off November 19 and continues to glow all the way through Christmas. Enjoy snowshoe workout classes Saturday mornings in winter (\$5; equipment is provided; call to register).

Hours: Dawn-dusk
Holiday light festival: Fri-Sun, Thanksgiving through Christmas
GPS: Lat: 41.5499 Long: -87.0662
Address: US Highway 6 and Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-465-3586
Web: indianadunes.com/parks-and-recreation
Cost: Free; \$5 for festival; \$5 to snowshoe
Activities: Sledding, Tubing, Skiing, Snowshoeing, Snowshoe Rental



Taltree Arboretum and Gardens

Taltree's quiet, gently-sloping woodlands, fascinating wetland views and huge expanse of prairie make the nearly four miles of trails perfect for cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and bird watching. Or come indoors for one of many gardening classes.

Hours: Nov-Mar: 10am-4pm
GPS: Lat: 41.4489 Long: -87.1533
Address: 450 West 100 North, Valparaiso, IN 46385
Phone: 219-462-0025
Web: taltree.org
Cost: \$10/free for members and children 4 and under
Activities: Skiing, snowshoeing (with own equipment), gardening classes



Tower Park

This park (named because it resides in the shadow of the town's water tower) has open skating and hockey on its ice rink. The rink is lighted (coin-activated), and there's a warming shelter and restrooms available.

Hours: Dawn-dusk
GPS: Lat: 41.4769 Long: -87.0597
Address: 1000 North Franklin Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-462-5144
Web: valparaisoparks.org
Cost: Quarters for lighting
Activities: Ice Skating

WRF Nursery and Garden Center

In the fall, take a hayride to the pumpkin patch and pick your own, and give the corn maze a try. When winter rolls around, you can cut your own Christmas tree.

Hours: Mar 1-Dec 24 Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Sun 10am-4pm
GPS: Lat: 41.4125 Long: -87.0222
Address: 253 East 150 South, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-548-7229 **Web:** wrfnursery.com
Cost: Cost of pumpkins and trees varies