

**Visitor Services Project
Indiana Dunes
National Lakeshore**

Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore during July 12-18, 1993. A total of 510 questionnaires were distributed and 360 returned, a 70% response rate.
- This report profiles Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore visitors. A separate appendix has visitors' comments about their visit; this report and the appendix contain a comment summary.
- Visitors were often in family groups (55%). Thirty-five percent of visitors were 15 years old or younger; forty-two percent were 21-50 years old. Most (60%) had visited Indiana Dunes previously.
- Visitors from foreign countries comprised 4% of the visitation. Sixty-eight percent of the U.S. visitors came from Indiana and Illinois, with smaller proportions from many other states.
- Most visitors (56%) spent between two to four hours at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Walking on the beach (61%), sun bathing (52%), and swimming (51%) were the most popular activities during their visit. Swimming (72%), walking on the beach (70%) and sun bathing (64%) were the most common activities the visitors listed as activities they participated in during past visits to the park.
- Mount Baldy was the most visited park site (62%). Fifty-six percent of the visitors visited Indiana Dunes State Park. Half of the visitors (50%) visited West Beach and forty-three percent of the visitors visited the visitor center.
- Visitors most often used previous visits (57%) and advice from friends and relatives (45%) as sources of information about the park.
- The most used facilities were the parking lots (87%), restrooms (76%) and the trails (54%). The trails, picnic areas/shelter houses, parking lots and campgrounds received the highest quality ratings.
- Directional signs (71%), informational signs (60%) and uniformed park staff (51%) were the most used interpretive/informational services at Indiana Dunes. The trail maps, the visitor nature center, and regulation signs received the highest quality ratings.
- Visitors made many additional comments.

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