Environmental Profile: Washington County, Indiana

Information & County Contacts

Washington County Visitor’s Center:
http://www.washingtoncountytourism.com/index.html

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District:
(812) 883-3704 ext. 101

Land, Water, & Biodiversity & Conservation Efforts:

Knobstone Trail

The rugged terrain of this 58 mile backcountry hiking trail is often compared to the Appalachian Trail, and many people use it to train for the AT. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources manages the Knobstone Trail in Clark, Scott, and Washington counties in southern Indiana. It is Indiana's longest footpath, passing through Clark State Forest, Elk Creek Public Fishing Area, and Jackson-Washington State Forest.¹

¹http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/Destinations/Knobstone_trail.htm
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Twin Creek Valley & Henderson Park

Twin Creek Valley is a mesic oak forest peppered with limestone glades, rock outcrops, scenic cove waterfalls and numerous caves. This valley is a beautiful habitat for special cave animals, gorgeous spring wildflowers and for anyone who loves nature. Henderson Park is just a portion of Twin Creek Valley, but is the only area developed for visitation. Henderson Park is owned by the City of Salem and is managed by The Nature Conservancy through a conservation easement designed to protect the forest, glades and caves at the site.²

Endangered Species:

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

The Sedge Wren is a small, secretive wren that breeds in short grass and sedge marshes. Perhaps because of the highly transitory nature of its nesting habitats, the Sedge Wren moves around a great deal from year to year, not staying in one place for long. It nests in dense tall sedges and grasses in wet meadows, hayfields, and marshes.³

²http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/placesweprotect/twin-creek-valley-1.xml
³http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sedge_Wren/lifehistory