

Wandering Indiana

Hiking has become a priority for the first part of the year. With everything seemingly going virtual (see about my involvement in the [Plainfield Mini Marathan & 5K Training](#)), getting out and about is our way of experiencing the New Year safely as well as getting some exercise and enjoying God's creation.

A combination of some Wandering on roads, visiting restaurants and mostly hiking has been the goal for the first month of year.

Before I talk parks and trails, check out these restaurants. The food industry needs our help. Support them as you can.

[Bird's Smokehouse BBQ in Daleville](#)

[Pizza King in Batesville](#)

[Weenee World in New Castle](#)

[Frisch's Big Boy in Richmond](#)

McCormick's Creek is Indiana's oldest State Park. We hiked Trail #3 while visiting the park. As many times as I have visited the park, I had never hiked this trail. Wolf Cave was always the destination and definitely a great hike. But trail #3 is awesome! You have to hike down into the canyon and go see the much-photographed waterfall but don't stop there. Hike the trail downstream which effectively is walking along and in McCormick's Creek. You will not be disappointed. When finished, we were hungry. The restaurant at Canyon Inn is closed for sit down dining. We ordered carry out, ate in the car, and enjoyed al the scenery and wildlife while eating our food. The new kind of winter picnic.

Burnett Woods is a Nature Preserve that is a hidden gem in Avon. People that live in Avon have no clue it is there. What a nice treat to take in the unimproved trails within these woods. Central Indiana Land Trust manages and maintains the area. Exciting news is that the Town of Avon will be creating Burnett Park, and this will add adjoining amenities to the Nature Preserve. This unknown gem is about to be discovered. Check it out.

Fred & Dorothy Meyer Nature Preserve is located south of Mooresville on SR67 off Observatory Road. This wooded preserve is a challenging 0.7-mile trail hike which goes down and then back up. As I have said to many of my walking and running friends – every good downhill has a good uphill. The trail is reasonable marked, unimproved and it is somewhat difficult. It makes for a good quick hike in the woods.

Summit Lake State Park is a relatively new park in terms of Indiana's State Parks. There are not many trails in the park, but we really enjoy the hikes that are available. We hiked Trail #1 and #5 which have both woods and prairie and walks along the lake. As an added treat, we were able to hike in the early evening in the snow and that was just an added treat to the hike, one you don't typically get to enjoy.

More wandering to come in the future. We are setting up our adventures. Please pass along your thoughts for places to visit!

~ Jeff Banning



Burnett Woods Nature Preserve