

St. Patrick's County Park

St. Patrick's County Park was opened in 1980. Using primarily federal funds from the IDNR, the park Board purchased the 105-acre St. Patrick's Farm from the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1976. Located on the east bank of the St. Joseph River at the Michigan State Line, the site was a natural for development into a regional park with facilities for fishing, boating, canoeing, picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing, winter tubing and playfields. It also has a public boat launch. Approximately 58 acres were added in the form of a life estate through the generosity of the Manion family. With other acquisitions the total acreage of St. Pat's Park is now 398 acres.

The Park features the Red Barn, considered one of the largest wooden barns in the county, the Robert J. Fischgrund Center for the Performing Arts, the Adair Orchard, the Manion Cabin, and the Freedom Memorial: "Standing Tall".

The Red Barn and other related former farm building in the park were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013-2014.

Through a partnership with the University of Notre Dame, St. Patrick's Park is home to the University's Linked Experimental Ecosystem Facility (ND-LEEF). ND-LEEF is a created watershed designed for environmental experiments in an outdoor laboratory setting. The area is open to park visitors and includes interpretive displays. The partnership includes outreach education programs for schools and the public.

