



Media Kit

2023

OVERVIEW

Spanning more than 1,000 wooded acres in Central Indiana, Conner Prairie welcomes more than 400,000 visitors of all ages annually. As Indiana's first Smithsonian affiliate, Conner Prairie offers various outdoor, historically themed encounters and indoor experiential learning spaces that combine history and art with science, technology, engineering, and math to offer an authentic look into history that shapes society today. Conner Prairie is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization – accredited by the American Alliance of Museums – that relies on grants and philanthropic donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations for sustainability and growth.

MISSION

Conner Prairie is a unique historic place that inspires curiosity and fosters learning by providing engaging and individualized experiences for everyone.

VISION

Conner Prairie will expand the boundaries of our historical and natural resources by exploring, celebrating, and improving the human experience.

VALUES

Heart for the past. Head for the present. Eye for the future.

DEAI PROMISE

Conner Prairie is a place where the doors are always open to a diversity of voices and limitless experiences.

ADMISSION AND MEMBERSHIP RATES

To see current admission and membership rates click [HERE](#).

Additional ticket required for the [1859 Balloon Voyage](#).

Conner Prairie is proud to join forces with other local museums and cultural attractions to make fun family learning more accessible through the **Access Pass** program, administered through The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. The Access Pass offers \$2 admission per family member. To see eligibility and application process click [HERE](#).

2023 FREE Days:

January 16, 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 20, 2023 Presidents Day
September 1, 2023 Smithsonian Free Day

CONNER PRAIRIE

STEP INTO THE STORY

2023 HOURS

January 5 – March 26 INDOOR ONLY

Thursday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Grounds CLOSED during Winter Hours

March 28 – October 29 OUTDOOR GROUNDS OPEN

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

November 2 – December 31 INDOOR ONLY

Thursday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Grounds CLOSED during Winter Hours

GOVERNANCE

Conner Prairie is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation. Meet the Board of Directors and Museum Leadership team [HERE](#).

CONSERVATION

Conner Prairie stewards 1,046 acres of natural habitat and green space including over six miles of shoreline across the White River. Sustainability initiatives are guided by passionate ecological stewardship, community-driven programming, and environmental restoration. Conner Prairie has teamed up with the White River Alliance and Duke Energy to further the commitment to conservation and sustainability through river clean-ups and tree plantings on the grounds.

Future plans include the White River Education and Ecology Center to make river education more accessible to everyone. Conner Prairie is partnering with neighboring municipalities and higher education institutions to provide an essential space to create environmental education, research, and programming opportunities for Conner Prairie to be the leaders for the vision of the White River.

The new White River and Ecology Center is part of a community collaboration project with Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation, Hamilton County Parks, and Hamilton County Tourism. It will allow visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the river and its role in the regional ecosystem, to complement other planned environmental and programmatic improvements in the area.

EXPERIENCES

[1816 LENAPE INDIAN CAMP - Outdoor](#)

Step into Indiana territory in our earliest historical area, 1816 Lenape Indian Camp. Here you will explore the life, culture and relationship between the Lenape Indians and American fur traders. On the cusp of statehood, life is changing for those who live here. The impact of Indiana's transition from territory to statehood is felt in the economy, the environment, and the people posing the question, "Would you be willing to adapt in order to survive?"

CONNER PRAIRIE

STEP INTO THE STORY

PRAIRIETOWN Est. 1836 - Outdoor

Immerse yourself in a 19th-century village and interact with the people, animals, objects, and routines of life in Central Indiana beginning in 1836. You can study in the one-room schoolhouse, help with chores or watch a tradesperson at work. You'll also meet the residents of Prairietown as they go about their daily lives. You'll learn new skills and they might even tell you stories and share some local gossip. Come prepared to learn and play. Prairietown's success depends on you!

1859 BALLOON VOYAGE - Outdoor

The helium balloon at Conner Prairie pays tribute to the launch of the "Jupiter", a balloon designed and piloted by John Wise and marked as the first successful airmail delivery in the United States. The balloon delivers Conner Prairie's explorer spirit, having lifted 190,000 passengers 377 feet up in the air. The balloon is 105 feet tall, higher than an eight-story building, 73 feet wide, and contains enough helium to fill 211,880 party balloons. The balloon at Conner Prairie is one of other four tethered helium balloons in the whole country and is the only one in the world to put balloon flight into a historical context. Additional ticket needed to ride the balloon.

1863 CIVIL WAR JOURNEY - Outdoor

On July 8, 1863, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his forces crossed the Ohio River into Indiana. In 1863 Civil War Journey, you'll cross a covered bridge and step into the southern Indiana town of Dupont shortly after this raid. Along the way, you'll meet local residents, experience immersive presentations, gather supplies for the Soldier's Aid Society, and even participate in military drills. Younger visitors will love the splash and play water area that includes safe fun, water cannons.

ESTRIDGE FAMILY PARK - Outdoor

Ag Adventures at Estridge Family Park was created as a place where all children, with all abilities, can play alongside each other. Accessible playgrounds are transformative spaces where each of us is empowered to reach our full potential.

This unique park is another way Conner Prairie, in partnership with Unlimited Play, is working to deliver upon its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and stay true to the mission of providing engaging and individualized experiences for everyone. The Unlimited Play partnership builds upon that organization's passion for creating play environments designed with people of all shapes, sizes, and abilities in mind.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS - Outdoor

Get up close and interact with your favorite farm animals! You'll encounter big life lessons about animal husbandry, life cycles and silly and surprising animal behaviors. Speak one-on-one with the specialists who care for animals year-round on our grounds. Make sure you ask about our rare historical breeds of livestock and the important role Conner Prairie plays in preserving these animals.

DISCOVERY STATION - Indoor

This indoor area is the perfect place for guests through the age of nine. Here you can create, climb, explore, play, and pretend! Children develop their critical thinking skills and have big-time fun at the same time. There's even a special area for infants. Whether climbing the forest-themed play area, dressing up like a favorite critter, or building a puzzle, this is the perfect place for families all year long.

CONNER PRAIRIE

STEP INTO THE STORY

HABITAT - Outdoor

Habitats provide homes for all living things, from the tiniest ant to the tallest tree. The exhibition *Habitat* explores the critical need for varied habitats, how interconnected and fragile they are, and what we can do to protect them. The experience showcases the unique habitats throughout the gardens and landscapes of Conner Prairie. *Habitat* was developed by Smithsonian Gardens and is made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

NATURE WALK - Outdoor

Whether it's woods, water, prairie, or farmland, Conner Prairie is surrounded by beautiful nature. This is the perfect area to experience it up close! Walk along the levee to discover the plants and animals that call this land home. Along the way, you'll learn how this land was used in the past and how it is being used today. Visit the Lookout for a spectacular view of the restored prairie. The trail offers a few steep spots, so we recommend wearing close-toed shoes and traveling on foot.

PROMISED LAND AS PROVING GROUND - Outdoor

Promised Land as Proving Ground covers centuries of African American history from pre-colonial Africa to the present day and specifically explores the development of African American faith ways and their expression through food, music and dance, and activism from traditional African religion to the African American church.

RIVER CROSSING SPLASH PAD - Outdoor

Our Civil War-themed splash area is the perfect place to cool down during your visit. Kids can have fun boarding the Alice Dean steamboat, firing water cannons, guiding toy boats along the river, and more. This area is full of hands-on activities that encourage pretend play and family interaction. *Open Memorial Day through Labor Day during museum operating hours.*

SPARK!LAB - Indoor

In Spark!Lab, we believe everyone is inventive. Every day we provide opportunities for children and families to explore their inventive creativity – to create, innovate, collaborate, and problem-solve – because these experiences empower kids to develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed today and in the future. Spark!Lab was developed by the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

TREETOP OUTPOST - Outdoor

Treetop Outpost features a 4-story treehouse and fun areas for exploring, building and even playing songs on outdoor instruments. Come connect with the natural materials in the world around you. Disconnect from gadgets and unplug in a beautiful wooded setting. There's no "one way" to play here! Climb on our new play structure, Fort Hoosier, or make music with the instruments out in nature. Discover the scientist within when you look at bugs or leaves under the microscope or take a break in the cozy reading space. Your family can spend an afternoon exploring this area of Conner Prairie.

WILLIAM CONNER HOUSE - Outdoor

Welcome to one of Indiana's oldest brick homes, the one-time residence of William Conner and his family 200 years ago. They experienced a period of transition and change at the same time Indiana was moving from territory to statehood. Enter through the family's front door – located on the prairie side of the house – and immerse yourself in exhibits and activities that explore the questions of the day. See how land was settled, surveyed and sold.

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STEP INTO THE STORY

AWARDS

Midwest Living's **Best of the Midwest 2022:** Best Historical Site – 2022

Reader's Digest: **Top 25 Corn Mazes** – 2021

Indianapolis Star Official Community Choice Awards: **Best Historical Site, Best Summer Camp** – 2020

Fishers City Council: Life Without Limits Award for **DEAI initiatives** – 2019

CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions 2019 **Partner Award**

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience: **Site of Conscience** – 2018

American Alliance of Museums: **Excellence in Exhibition**, Reimagined William Conner House – 2017

Lilly Endowment Grant: \$7.5M Awarded for **Organizational Sustainability** – 2015

National Science Foundation: **\$2.5M Grant** – 2012

Institute for Museum and Library Services: **National Medal** – 2010

Indiana's first **Smithsonian Institute Affiliate** - 2008