OVERVIEW

The Hoosier Hikers Council built the Tecumseh Trail between 1998 and 2002. It is a 42-mile linear path beginning at the headquarters of Morgan-Monroe State Forest, which is about 5 miles south of Martinsville along SR 37. It continues through Yellowwood State Forest, where it ends near the southern border of Yellowwood SF near Lake Monroe. The southern terminus is unusual in that there are no accessible roads or parking there; it is about two miles south of the last parking area on Crooked Creek Road.

Most of the route is over hilly, wooded terrain, and ascents of 100 to 300 feet are common. Over the entire 42 miles, there is about 4 miles total of road-walk, the longest stretch being 2.8 miles around the city of Belmont. The trail is marked mostly with white rectangular blazes painted on trees. Some locations also have carsonite or wood carved signs.

The mileages given in this guide are from north to south, with Mile 0 being at Morgan-Monroe State Forest headquarters and Mile 42 at the end at Panther Creek.

Before hiking or backpacking this trail, be sure to check the HHC website or the DNR for information on trail closures. The forest on which the Tecumseh traverses is very actively managed by the DNR, so closures and re-routes are frequent.

MAPS

The HHC publishes the only Tecumseh Map which contains detailed topographical, access, parking, and camping information. This map is an invaluable resource not only during a hike, but also for the
planning stages of any backpacking trip. This map can be purchased at www.hoosierhikerscouncil.org. The reference numbers designated on this map will be used throughout this guide.

The DNR at Morgan-Monroe State Forest (http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4816.htm) also publishes a free and helpful map of the Tecumseh; however, there are no topographical contours, and camping and parking information is limited.

**PLANNING YOUR TRIP**

The Tecumseh Trail traverses Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. Camping is not permitted in these forests except in designated locations. This situation is different from Clark and Jackson-Washington State Forests in southern Indiana, which allow camping along the Knobstone Trail within their forest boundaries, subject to certain restrictions. But the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest management has worked to provide sufficient camping along the Tecumseh Trail so that fit and well-prepared backpackers can hike its entirety without vehicular support. It is recommended that you study the camping and lodging options in the section below, and use that to plan your mileage for each day. For most backpackers of the Tecumseh these designated camping areas dictate the daily mileage and route selected.

Here is a summary table of the Tecumseh Trail camping options, which represents approximations of distances involved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Water Near Camp?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>State Forest Campground</td>
<td>Very close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Start of Back Country Area</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>End of Back Country Area</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>Foxes Den Shelter</td>
<td>Maybe ¼ mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>Indian Hill/Plum Creek Area</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>Yellowwood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>Belmont Motel</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>Hoosier National Forest</td>
<td>Maybe ½ mile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table can be used to design the route you wish to take, i.e., how many miles you will hike each day and where you will camp each night. You can see that the daily mileage can be as low as 3 miles but will be as high as almost 11 miles. The nearly 11 mile stretch between Indian Hill and Yellowwood Lake is the longest one. But if the Belmont motel is not an option for you, then you will need to hike about 12 miles in one day to get to the southern terminus of the trail. The south Tecumseh Trail terminus is located deep in the forest, 2 miles away from the closest road parking. This is because the hope is that the trail can be extended in the future.
This table is only an approximation of the actual camp distances. The camping options at Yellowwood Lake can be accessed from either the north or south end of the lake. The distance between the north and south ends is 2 miles when hiking the Tecumseh Trail and this can impact your actual daily distance hiked. The Indian Hill/Plum Creek camping areas stretch over a distance of about 3/4ths of a mile. Your actual choice within that stretch will impact your daily distances hiked.

Access to water sources is a consideration when planning your route. In the table above, some rows designate water as “Maybe”. This is because those particular camp locations do have small streams nearby. In normal years that are not unusually dry, if your hike is during the spring season, there is a good chance that each “Maybe” is a “Yes”. Otherwise it is recommended that you take a cautious approach, and assume these streams may be dry, and plan accordingly. It is not uncommon for some backpackers to stash water at strategic locations along the trail prior to their trip. The “Water” section below, on page 5, will provide a lot more detailed information on most water sources along the Tecumseh Trail, including each of these contained within the summary table above.

CAMPING AND LODGING ALONG THE TRAIL

As mentioned above, Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests allow camping only in designated areas. Below are listed lodging options that are along or within ½ mile of the trail. The distance in miles is provided to the left of each header, starting with the headquarters at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Mile

0.0 **Campground at North Trailhead**

Morgan-Monroe State Forest offers primitive camping sites with a fire pit, picnic table, and a shared privy, available for a small fee. These sites are located just a quarter mile north of the headquarters office. Water is available seasonally.

5-8 **Morgan-Monroe Backcountry Area**

Backcountry camping is allowed within the large designated “Backcountry Area” of Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The campsite should be located at least 200 feet away from any water sources or dry stream beds. This Backcountry area begins around Mile 5.5, where the Tecumseh Trail intersects Low Gap Road (denoted #5 on the HHC Tecumseh map). The Backcountry Area continues until about Mile 8, where the Tecumseh Trail reaches Shipman Ridge and heads east toward Bear Lake. Camping is allowed only between these two points, and care should be taken to ensure compliance with that regulation.

13.9 **Foxes Den Shelter**

The trail in this area and the shelter are all provided by the generosity of Lutheran Hills Church Camp. They provided the easement which allowed HHC to build the Tecumseh Trail across this property, and then they built the Foxes Den Shelter to offer a very critical camping option for through-hikers. This shelter is the only overnight option on the trail between Mile 8 and Mile 19.8. It is a 3-walled shelter with a fire pit and picnic table. No privy is available, and thus it is important to adhere strictly to backcountry standards for human waste. (See [www.backpacking.net/ethics.html](http://www.backpacking.net/ethics.html) for more information on backcountry ethics.) Always be sure to use the nice broom provided to clean
the shelter before leaving. If you see any litter, please consider packing it out, to keep it clean for
the next hiker, and to ensure continued public use of this privilege.

See the section “11.5 Richards Road Streams” below, page 7, since there are no ponds, streams,
or other water sources located directly at this shelter.

19.5 Indian Hill-Plum Creek Camping

Once you reach the top of Indian Hill, there is an opening in the woods, which is right before the
trail descends southward off the top of the hill. It is also the point where the main trail joins the
spur trail that runs about a ½ mile west to Indian Hill Road parking lot. At this spot there is a blue
carsonite sign stating that camping is allowed in the area east of this sign. If you follow the trail’s
southward descent for about a ¼ mile, you will reach another similar blue sign. Camping is allowed
between these two signs on the east side of the trail. This area is marked with three triangles on
the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. There are no ponds, streams, or other water sources located at these
camping areas, but if you continue south for 1/4th to ½ of a mile, depending on the location of your
camp, the trail runs close and eventually crosses Plum Creek.

30.2 Yellowwood Campground

Many Tecumseh Trail backpackers use the walk-in, open grassy area at the north east side of the
lake. This can be accessed by turning south on the Yellowwood Lake Road and proceeding for about
¼ of a mile. It is called a youth camping area, but anyone can camp there. Each party has to pay a
fee at the forest office which is further south down the road. This area does have a privy. Water
from the lake can be accessed, but no potable water source is provided at the site.

Nearer to the southern end of the lake, Yellowwood has several large campgrounds with drive-in
primitive sites, each having a picnic table, fire pit, and shared vault toilet. These sites are located
about a ½ mile from the trail, accessed from #19 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail map. There is a fee to
use these sites, to be paid at the forest office, which is about ½ mile north of the campgrounds on the
gravel Yellowwood Lake Road.

35 Hickory Shades Motel in Belmont

Hickory Shades Motel is the only full-facility, modern lodging along the Tecumseh Trail. It is
located on the small stretch of the trail which borrows Highway 46, just west of #21 on the HHC
Tecumseh Map. Their phone number is: 812-988-4694. Their website is:
hickoryshadesmotel@att.net.

42.5 Hoosier National Forest

The Tecumseh Trail ends at a small stream called Panther Creek, designated by a sign saying “End
of Tecumseh Trail”. There are no accessible roads or parking at this point. The most southern
parking area is about 2 miles north at Crooked Creek Road. The reason it ends deep in the forest is
because it is near the border with Hoosier National Forest. If you cross the stream and look around
as you head in a southeast direction, you will find an old dirt path cut in the side of the hill, which
ascends upward to Horse Trail D of Hoosier National Forest. Just south of this intersection with the
horse trail is a gate which marks the boundary between Yellowwood State Forest and the Hoosier

Page 4
National Forest. Backcountry camping is allowed in Hoosier National Forest, as long as you stay at least 200 feet away from any water sources or dry creek beds.

**WATER**

As with all untreated water in the U.S., any obtained from streams, ponds, and lakes should be treated before drinking or cooking. A guide to backcountry water treatment can be located from the USDA at this URL: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_documents/stelprdb5261208.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_documents/stelprdb5261208.pdf).

While the main focus of this section is to provide information on Tecumseh Trail water sources, there is some navigational and points of interest information as well. The distance in miles is provided to the left of each header, starting with Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters.

**Mile**

**0.0 Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters**

*Reliable Water Source (for 2015)*

There used to be a year-round potable water spigot located on the outside wall of the headquarters office, but that is no longer available. As of November of 2015, the headquarters office is under construction, and there is a replacement public water spigot next to the adjacent parking area, near the Tree ID trailhead. It will be open in the warmer months, and at least through the 2015-2016 winter. But the forest management has not yet decided on a long-term option, and whether it will remain open all-year, so you should call the office for updates before relying on this source.

**3 Rock Shelter Streams and Rock Shelter**

Just before Mile 3 the trail will make its first very large descent, coming down off Tincher Ridge, toward #4 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. At the bottom, you will cross and follow several small streams which intersect and run alongside the trail. These should not be relied upon because they can be dry.

*Item of Interest – Rock Shelter*

The trail will pass to the right of Rock Shelter, which is marked as #4 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. This is a small overhang resulting from the faster erosion of the underlying rock. It’s a great place to plan lunch, a snack, or break, especially if it is raining.

**3.5 Rock Shelter Pond**

*Reliable Water Source*

As you ascend to the ridge after the Rock Shelter, within a ½ mile the trail passes a small pond on the right. As with any small pond in the woods, the water is very dark in color due to tannins released from the decomposition of leafy and other organic materials.
Navigation – Three-Mile Split
At about 4 miles the trail will reach the “Three Mile Split”. If you were to continue straight, this would complete the 3-Mile Loop Trail which started at the 3-Mile Parking Lot. To follow the Tecumseh, turn right and head east instead.

5.1 Landram Ridge Pond
Reliable Water Source
Right before making a large descent to Low Gap, the trail passes another small pond on the left at Mile 5.1. The water is dark from decomposition of organic matter.

Navigation – Low Gap Road and Parking
At the end of a large descent the trail reaches Low Gap Road, which is #5 on the HHC Tecumseh Map. Be very careful to look both directions for cars before stepping onto the road. Cars drive fast on this road and they do not see hikers as they emerge from the woods.

5.4 Honey Creek at Low Gap Road
Right after crossing Low Gap Road (#5 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map) the trail descends steep wooden steps to the gravel parking lot. It then crosses two streams within a tenth of a mile, which can both be dry. There is more likely to be water in the second creek and bridge you come to, which is the East Fork of Honey Creek. The water in this second creek is also generally better quality due to purer drainage sources.

6.7 The Pine Forest Bottomlands
After leaving the Low Gap Parking lot area, you will begin to ascend to a high ridge, the top of which is called Gorley Knob. You no sooner catch your breath from the climb when you quickly descend all the way back down. The trail meanders through the low, moist pine forest, crossing and following several small streams. The streams in the pine forest bottomlands may be dry.

Navigation – The Wedding Chapel
Around Mile 8 the Tecumseh Trail comes to a T, by intersecting a forest road that runs east-west along Shipman Ridge. You turn right at this point, dubbed “The Wedding Chapel”, and start heading east toward Bear Lake.

As you head east on Shipman Ridge, keep your eye out for the Tecumseh’s change from road to single foot path trail as it leaves the old ridge road and starts off to your left at about Mile 8.5.

10.1 Bear Lake
The Tecumseh Trail crosses a small, often dry stream about 1 mile after the Wedding Chapel, at about Mile 9. The next reliable water source is Bear Lake, denoted as #6 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.
**Navigation – Bear Creek Road**

The Tecumseh Trail only skirts the western edge of Bear Lake. The path that heads east across Bear Lake Dam is a spur trail that connects with the Bear Lake parking lot near the top of the hill. The actual Tecumseh Trail instead descends as it goes south past the dam, winds around the woods, and crosses a few streams before it emerges on Bear Creek Road. It crosses the road at the bottom of the hill, and continues into the woods.

### 11.5 Richards Road Streams

There is a small, unreliable stream about 1/4th of a mile west of Richards Road, denoted as #7 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

Shortly after crossing Richards Road, the trail crosses two small streams which can be dry.

If they have water, these streams are sometimes the next to last opportunity to obtain water before reaching the Foxes Den Shelter, which is about 2 miles south at this point. If water is not obtained at this location, the hiker should beware he or she is gambling that the last stream ¼ mile before the shelter will have water. This last opportunity for water before reaching Foxes Den Shelter is a stream in the last ravine before the final ascent up the hill on which the shelter sits. This stream may be dry, and indeed often is.

The Foxes Den Shelter is at the top of a hill at Mile 13.9.

**Navigation – Alternate Route**

In 2012 forest management activities in this area resulted in the HHC building a re-route which allowed the Tecumseh Trail to remain open and eliminate the need to walk along roads during the period of these activities. This re-route is possible due to the generosity of the private land owners, Waycross Camp and Conference Center, and Lutheran Hills Camp, who have granted the right-of-way for this trail. These land owners have both allowed continued access on this trail. This provides an alternate route for Tecumseh Trail users. This route consists of a single path trail which begins after the trail nears the top of the hill. It then drops into a lush ravine and follows along a small stream. It is shown in blue in the 2013 version of the HHC Tecumseh Trail map. The original route, depicted in red on the HHC map, remains high along the ridge, and borrows an old forest road for parts of its length. The two trails rejoin at the base of the hill before heading toward the Fox’s Den Shelter.

### 14.8 Brier Creek

About a mile after the Foxes Den Shelter the Tecumseh Trail crosses Brier Creek. While this is one of the larger streams in the area, it can be dry.

**Navigation – Carmel Ridge Road**

At #8 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, which is Mile 15.2, the trail emerges onto Carmel Ridge Road. It heads north on this road for 1/3rd of a mile, heading up a hill. At the top of the hill, turn right onto a cable-gated forest service road to continue on the Tecumseh Trail. In less than ¼ of a mile after leaving Carmel Ridge Road, the trail crosses a small stream, which is often dry.
17.4 East Lost Branch Road

About a ½ mile before reaching East Lost Branch Road, at Mile 17, the trail crosses a stream which can be dry. It crosses a stream again just before reaching East Lost Branch Road, denoted as #9 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, which is Mile 17.4. Both of these streams can be dry.

Navigation

The trail goes north (right) on East Lost Branch Road, following it for about 2 tenths of a mile before it makes a sharp left turn to head south on West Lost Branch Road. Continue south until reaching SR 45. Head west on this highway for 400 feet, then turn south (left) on Indian Hill Road.

17.4 Bean Blossom Creek

At Mile 18.5, denoted as #11 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail on Indian Hill Road crosses a low-water bridge over Bean Blossom Creek. This creek is generally reliable, but since it is a fairly small creek, should not be relied upon in particularly dry seasons or years.

In the case of high water, see the section “Indian Hill High Water Route” on page 14.

In March of 2013 the HHC completed a trail re-route which eliminated the need to take Indian Hill Road to ascend Indian Hill. This trail is depicted on 2013 and newer versions of the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. To locate the route, go around the large post at the cable-gate that is located on the left about 200 feet after the Bean Blossom Creek bridge. You will see a large sign explaining a Memorial Tree Plantation. There is a small clearing just to the south (right) after passing through the gate posts. The single path Tecumseh Trail starts here, and it can be followed using the standard white rectangular blazes. This route re-joins the original route at the top of Indian Hill, where the designated camping area begins, described in the section “19.5 Indian Hill-Plum Creek Camping”, on page 4.

20 Plum Creek

At about Mile 20 the trail reaches a low area, crosses and travels along several streams which drain into Plum Creek. At Mile 21, which is #13 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail reaches Plum Creek. This creek and its close tributaries generally have water, but it may require searching for small pools in dry times. Be aware that it could be totally dry.

Navigation

At Mile 21, denoted as #13 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail emerges onto Indian Hill Road. It makes a left to head south on Salmeron Road. Be careful not to turn onto Plum Creek Road, which heads east up a hill. Walk for 1/4th of a mile on Salmeron Road, and look to the right for the trail to leave the road, cross Plum Creek, and enter back onto the wooded path, heading up a hill.

17.4 Lanam Ridge

Between Salmeron Road and Lanam Ridge Road, denoted as #14 and #15 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail crosses and follows along several small streams, which may be dry.
**Navigation**

When the trail emerges onto the blacktop Lanam Ridge Road, turn east (left). After about 1/3rd of a mile, turn south (right) onto the gravel Dubois Ridge Road. In a little over a tenth of a mile, the trail heads off the road and into the woods to the west (right).

**23.7 Prang Pond**

*Reliable Water Source*

At about Mile 23.7, which is #16 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail reaches Prang Pond. A gravel parking lot can be reached by turning left and going around the north side of the lake to a short side trail.

**24.7 Pattys Garden Ridge**

About 1 mile after Prang Pond, at Mile 24.7, the trail descends to a small stream south of Pattys Garden Ridge. This stream can be dry.

There is a very small stream near Mile 25.2, but it has water only during very wet periods.

**28 Jackson Creek and Yellowwood Lake**

*Reliable Water Source*

The trail crosses Yellowwood Lake Road at Mile 28, denoted near #17 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. Shortly after, it crosses Jackson Creek on a wooden bridge. This is just one of several water sources in the area. There is a seasonal spigot in the parking lot at the Yellowwood State Forest Headquarters, about 1.25 miles south on Yellowwood Lake Road. The trail also follows along the west side of the lake for the next two miles. In dry times this area could potentially be the last opportunity for a readily-accessible, reliable water source on the entire trail south of this point.

**Navigation**

Shortly after crossing the bridge over Jackson Creek, the trail reaches a T intersection with another trail on Yellowwood Lake State Forest property. Turn south (left) to continue on the Tecumseh. After 1.8 miles, at the southern edge of the lake the trail emerges onto the gravel Jackson Creek Road. The trail follows this road for only a couple hundred feet before it turns west (right) back onto the wooded path, as it crosses a small stream.

**31 Caldwell Hollow**

At about Mile 31, between #19 and #20 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map, the trail begins to follow along and cross several times a small stream for the next mile. This stream can be dry, but if it is not, it is highly recommended to get water at this location, as it could be the clearest and most accessible opportunity for the rest of the trail south of this point.
**Navigation**

The trail ascends to Scarce O’ Fat Ridge, denoted as #20 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. At the top of the ridge, the trail turns south (left) and follows a gravel service road. After 1.7 miles the trail comes to a DNR gate and gravel parking lot. The trail continues on Scarce O’ Fat Ridge Road, also a gravel road, for 3/4ths of a mile until it T’s into SR 46. Head west (right) on SR 46 for less than ½ a mile. Turn south (left) on TC Steele Road.

### 35.1 North Fork Salt Creek

**Reliable Water Source**

A quarter of a mile south of SR 46 the trail crosses North Fork Salt Creek. Being so near to Monroe Reservoir, it almost always will have water. However, the water is often muddy and it is also difficult to access due to a very large, steep bank surrounded by thick vegetation at the top.

**Navigation**

Just after crossing North Fork Salt Creek, turn east (left) on Schooner Road. In a ¼ of a mile, turn south (right) on Stevens Road. In a little over ½ of a mile, the road ends and you reach a cabled gate in front of a forest service road. The trail follows that service road.

### 36 Crooked Creek Area

From Miles 36-40 the trail ascends Bartley Ridge and hops from ridge to ridge until reaching Crooked Creek at Crooked Creek Road. There are several deer ponds in this 4-mile stretch, but it may require a high level of diligence to spot them, particularly in summer seasons with high vegetation. Crooked Creek may be dry.

**Navigation**

Upon reaching Crooked Creek Road, the trail goes north (left). The trail only follows Crooked Creek Road for a few hundred feet before it goes back into the woods to the west (left). Within minutes the trail crosses Crooked Creek Road and comes to the gravel parking lot on the east side. The trail heads north out of the parking lot, up the hill.

### 42 Panther Creek

The trail ends at a small stream called Panther Creek, which can be dry.

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**DIRECTIONS TO ACCESS AND PARKING**

As many of the parking areas along the Tecumseh Trail are in isolated areas along very minor and back roads, it is highly recommended that you use the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. The directions provided below will frequently use reference numbers from that map.

Whenever parking along the Tecumseh, be considerate of those who live nearby, and never park along roads with private property, especially where there are homes and mowed yards. Below is a long list of public forest areas where parking is allowed. Be very careful to never block entrances, gates, cables, or other evidence of access needed by forest personnel. While many of these areas may seem remote, they are very frequently used by forest personnel.
For overnight parking, it is recommended that cars be left at the Morgan-Monroe or Yellowwood State Forests offices. All other parking areas listed here are recommended only for day use. You should let the Forest Office staff know that you’re leaving your car there and also tell them of your backpacking plans in case of an emergency.

Distance in miles is provided beginning with the northern terminus at Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Mile

0.0 **Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters**

This parking lot is denoted as #1 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

Because the back roads are difficult to navigate and often misrepresented on maps, it is recommended that you approach the forest from SR 37, and turn east on a road called Pine Blvd. If coming from the north, Pine Blvd. is 5 miles south of Martinsville. If coming from the south, it is 14 miles north of 3rd Street Exit in Bloomington. Whether coming from the north or south on SR 37, there is a small brown sign on your right, near the top of a large hill, denoting the Pine Blvd. turn-off to Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

After turning east on Pine Blvd., travel about 6/10ths of a mile, and you will come to a stop sign, and merge into another road (a slight right-forward). After another 2 miles, you’ll come to a 3-way intersection with a big sign in the middle, “Morgan Monroe State Forest”.

This is the start of Main Forest Road. Veer LEFT at this intersection. As soon as you veer left, keep straight ahead on the main road. You'll immediately see yet another road going down to the left, called Hacker's Creek Road. Do not take that road, but continue straight ahead. This is "Main Forest Road". You keep traveling on the Main Forest Road for another 4 miles, and the headquarters office will be on your left. There is free parking across the street from the office.

0.2 **Mason Ridge (or Orcutt Road) Parking Lot**

This parking lot is denoted as #2 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

To locate Mason Ridge Parking Lot, follow the directions above for Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters. This parking lot is about 1/4th of a mile southeast of it on Main Forest Road. It is a gravel parking lot on the right, on the north side of the road.

1.6 **Three-Mile Loop (or Landram Ridge) Parking Lot**

This parking lot is denoted as #3 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

The Three-Mile Loop Parking Lot can be located by referencing the directions above for Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters. This gravel parking lot is located about 1 and 1/3rd mile south of it. Using the directions above, after reaching the big sign saying “Morgan Monroe State Forest”, which is also the start of Main Forest Road, travel about 2.8 miles and Three-Mile Loop Parking Lot is on the right.

5.4 **Low Gap Backcountry Parking Lot**

This parking lot is denoted as #5 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.
Follow the directions listed above for Morgan-Monroe State Forest Headquarters. Travel to the point of the big sign saying “Morgan Monroe State Forest”, which is also the start of Main Forest Road. Take the Main Forest Road about 2.7 miles until you reach Bean Blossom Road on the right. Follow Bean Blossom Road to the end, where it comes to a T. Turn left (east) on Anderson Road. Head east on Anderson Road for 1.2 miles until you come to another T. Turn left (north) at the T onto Low Gap Road. Head north on Low Gap Road for 1.2 miles. The Low Gap Backcountry Parking Lot will be on your right (east). It is a gravel lot that is at a lower elevation than the road. The steep slope of the entrance makes this lot difficult to access when conditions are icy or slick.

10.1 **Bear Lake Parking Lot**

This gravel parking lot is denoted as #6 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

Bear Lake Parking Lot is best accessed from SR 45. This begins in the east from SR 135 at Bean Blossom, about 5 miles north of Nashville, Indiana. SR 45 can be accessed from the west in Bloomington, Indiana.

To get to Bear Lake Parking Lot from SR 45, you take Bear Creek Road north, which is located in Trevlac. For those coming from the east on SR 45, Bear Creek Road is 5.25 miles from Bean Blossom, at the intersection of SR 135 and SR 45. If coming from Bloomington in the west, Bear Creek Road at Trevlac is about 15 miles on SR 45.

When you turn onto Bear Creek Road you will immediately cross railroad tracks. Within seconds you will see North Shore Drive going to the left. Do not take that road, but continue straight ahead (north) on Bear Creek Road. After about ½ mile, you will pass Branstetter Road to the right (east). Do not turn on this, but continue straight ahead. After about 3 miles you will come to a Y in the road, which is not well-labeled. The road heading right (east) is Richards Road (but some maps show this as Lower Bear Creek Road). Do not take this, but turn left to stay on Bear Creek Road. About ½ mile after that Y, Bear Lake Parking lot will be to the left (west). It is a gravel lot near the top of a hill.

11.8 **Along Richards Road – Not Recommended**

There is no established parking lot on Richards Road. Cars must pull over to the side of this gravel road. During wet periods, this can result in cars getting stuck in the soft areas alongside the road. For these reasons, this area is not ideal or recommended for parking.

This area is denoted as #7 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

The directions above for Bear Lake Parking Lot can be used to locate Richards Road. Follow those directions to the Y in Bear Creek Road. Instead of veering left to go to Bear Lake Parking Lot, head right (east) on Richards Road. In a little less than 1 mile you will reach the point that the Tecumseh crosses the road. This can be difficult to spot in a vehicle, because there is no parking lot, and no signs designed for street visibility. If you watch closely, you will see small, narrow brown carsonite signs that are placed along the road for the purpose of hikers on the trail.
17.4 **Along East Lost Branch Road – Not Recommended**

There is no parking area on East Lost Branch Road. Cars must pull over to the side of this gravel road and there is only enough room for one or two vehicles. For this reasons, it is not ideal or recommended to park here.

This area is denoted as #9 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

East Lost Branch Road is accessed from SR 45. Access to SR 45 is explained above under the directions for Bear Lake Parking Lot.

For those coming from the east on SR 45, East Lost Branch Road is on the right (north) 3.7 miles from Bean Blossom, a small town at the intersection of SR 135 and SR 45. East Lost Branch is located about 1 mile after passing through Helmsburg. If coming from Bloomington in the west, East Lost Branch Road is on the left (north), about 16.3 miles on SR 45.

Turn north on East Lost Branch Road, and continue north for 0.4 miles. There is forest on your right (east), and if you go very slow and look closely, you will locate the Tecumseh Trail emerging from the woods. Except for a small sign for hikers, there are no signs clearly visible which makes it difficult to locate the trail from a vehicle.

19.1 **Indian Hill Parking and High Water Route**

There are two options to park near Indian Hill. This first is a very small one that is about 200 feet south of Bean Blossom Creek Bridge, which is #11 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. The second and larger parking area is denoted as #12 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map. As shown on 2013 and later versions of the map, there is a ½ mile access route from the #12 parking lot to the Tecumseh Trail. This access route is shown in blue on 2013 and later versions of the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

Both Indian Hill parking lots are accessed from SR 45. Access to SR 45 is explained above under the directions for Bear Lake Parking Lot.

If coming from the east (from the town of Beam Blossom in SR 135), you will turn south on Indian Hill Road from SR 45. Indian Hill Road is located 600 feet west of East Lost Branch Road (directions above). Travel south on Indian Hill Road and you will see the smaller, first lot on your left, just after crossing the Bean Blossom Creek Bridge. In about 3/4ths of a mile, at the top of a very large, steep hill you will come to a large gravel parking lot to the left (east). There is no sign denoting this lot as belonging to the DNR, but it is by far the largest one in the area.

If coming from the west (from Bloomington), you will turn off of SR 45 at right (east) on Plum Creek Road. This road is about 13 miles from Bloomington on SR 45, and is located in the very small town of Needmore. If you reach Lake Lemon or Trevlac, you’ve gone too far. If you continue east on Plum Creek Road, in a little less than 1 mile you will reach a large junction where four roads come together at various angles. This is called Dollsberry Junction. Go left (north) on Indian Hill Road. Continue for about 1 mile and at the top of a large hill you will see the gravel parking lot to the right (east). If you continue on down the steep hill, the smaller parking area is located on your right at the base of the hill.
Indian Hill High Water Route
If you are accessing Indian Hill from the east on SR 45, like hikers of the Tecumseh Trail, you may need to make use of the Indian Hill High Water Route. The High Water Route is also a better route if there is any snow on the road, because the north slope of Indian Hill is much steeper than the south slope of the High Water Route.

If you were to travel south on Indian Hill Road from SR 45, the “Low Water Route”, after 0.2 miles you would cross Bean Blossom Creek on a “low water” ford. It is by design that this ford floods often, especially after and during a good rain. In winter it may also develop a thick sheet of ice. For this reason, there is a High Water Route for both hikers of the Tecumseh Trail and vehicles accessing Indian Hill from the east on SR 45.

The Indian Hill High Water Route begins at the junction of Indian Hill Road and SR 45. Continue west on SR 45 for 2.4 miles, until you come to the very small town of Needmore. There is a road to the left (east) called Plum Creek Road. Take Plum Creek Road, following the directions to Indian Hill Parking Lot provided above for those coming from Bloomington.

23.7 Prang Pond Parking Lot
This parking lot is denoted as #16 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

Prang Pond is best accessed from SR 45. Access to SR 45 is explained above under the directions for Bear Lake Parking Lot.

From SR 45 you will turn east on Lanam Ridge Road. If coming from the west (from Bloomington), it is about 12 miles from Bloomington on SR 45. If coming from the east (from Bean Blossom on SR 135), it is about 7.4 miles from Bean Blossom, and a little over 1 mile from Needmore. The turn-off can be difficult to spot, because it is at a point where SR 45 is steeply sloped and curves sharply.

Continue east on Lanam Ridge Road for 1.8 miles. To your right (south) will be a gravel road called Dubois Ridge Road. In about 1/3 of a mile on Dubois Ridge Road you will see a gravel entrance to a small gravel parking lot, which is Prang Pond Parking Lot.

28.1 North Yellowwood Lake Road Parking Lots
These parking lots are denoted as #17 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

These parking areas can be accessed from the north on SR 45; however, this is not recommended because it often requires a vehicle with high clearance to cross two natural fords on Yellowwood Lake Road. In other words, between Lanam Ridge Road and the parking areas, Yellowwood Lake Road crosses two small creek beds.
It is instead recommended to access these parking lots from SR 46. There is a sign for Yellowwood State Forest on SR 46, where Yellowwood Lake Road heads north. Yellowwood Lake Road is about 12 miles east of Bloomington and it is about 6 miles south and west of Nashville on SR 46.

Take Yellowwood Lake Road north from SR 46. After 1.2 miles you will cross a small bridge and come to a junction where four roads come together at various angles. Turn left, staying on the main blacktop road, which is Yellowwood Lake Road. In a little less than a mile you will turn right, which is still Yellowwood Lake Road. There are signs for Yellowwood Lake Forest at this right turn. After turning, you will pass several campgrounds and the Yellowwood Lake Forest Headquarters on your left (west). After about 1 and 3/4ths mile from that right turn, you will see a large gravel parking lot to your left, which is at the north end of Yellowwood Lake. You can catch the Tecumseh Trail from this lot by taking a short ¼-mile trail north which intersects it.

If you stay on Yellowwood Lake Road and continue past the large gravel parking lot for about ¼ of a mile you will come to another small parking lot which is at a cemetery. The Tecumseh Trail crosses Yellowwood Lake Road at this junction.

### 30.2 Yellowwood Lake Dam Parking Lot, Not Recommended

This parking lot is denoted as #19 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

This parking area is located at the south end of Yellowwood Lake, and it is very limited. Access involves crossing a natural ford that has a fairly large bank. It is strongly recommended to avoid crossing this ford.

The directions above to the North Yellowwood Lake Road Parking Lots can be used to access this area. As directed above, take Yellowwood Lake Road north from SR 46. After 1.2 miles you will cross a small bridge and come to a junction where four roads come together at various angles. Turn left, staying on the main blacktop road, which is Yellowwood Lake Road. In a little less than a mile the main road, Yellowwood Lake Road, will make a right. Instead of going right, continue straight ahead. In about 1/3 of a mile the road will come to a T. Turn right (north) at the T. There is parking in about 1,000 feet, after crossing the very treacherous ford mentioned above.

### 33.7 Scarce O’ Fat Road Parking Lot

This parking lot is denoted by a car icon that is just north of #21 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

This parking lot is accessed from SR 46 near the town of Belmont, which is about 8 miles west of Nashville and 12 mile east of Bloomington. About a ½ mile east of Belmont is a gravel road heading north called Scarce O’ Fat Ridge Road. If you head north on this road, it will dead-end in about a ½ mile into a small parking area. Be careful not to block the cable gate for forest service access.

### 39.7 Crooked Creek Parking Lot

This parking lot is denoted as #24 on the HHC Tecumseh Trail Map.

It is best accessed from SR 46, at Belmont, which is about 8 miles west of Nashville and 12 mile east of Bloomington. Turn south on T.C. Steele Road, which is right across from the Hickory Shades Motel in Belmont (see page 4). In about 3 miles you will come to a junction with Gilmore Ridge
Road. Do not turn right here, but continue on T.C. Steele Road. Go for another 4 miles, following the road as it does a large U turn and starts heading north. Shortly after the blacktop turns to gravel, you will see the parking lot on your right (east).

Note that the Crooked Creek Parking Lot, 1.8 miles north of the Tecumseh southern terminus, is the southern-most parking available along the Tecumseh Trail. There are no accessible roads or parking areas at the southern terminus. This is because of an original desire to extend the trail into Hoosier National Forest Land.

TRAIL SHUTTLES

Most High Adventure Outfitters from Bloomington, Indiana is familiar with the Tecumseh Trail access points and offers year-round shuttle services for about any size of group. They are also able to transport a lot of gear if needed. You can email them at swc@soilandwater.com or call at (812) 340-0700.

NEARBY CAMPING AND LODGING

Martinsville
About 7 miles north of the trail’s northern terminus is the city of Martinsville on SR 37. There are several large franchise and local lodging options which can be quickly found on the internet.

Bloomington
The Tecumseh Trail runs north-south about 14 miles east of Bloomington. Home to Indiana University, it has numerous options for lodging that can be found on the web.

Nashville
Nashville is about 8 mile east of the Tecumseh Trail. Tucked into the hills of Brown County, it is a quaint small town that is a very popular tourist destination. It has historically served as the center of the Brown County Art Colony, which has included some well-known artists such as T.C. Steele. It is full of many family-owned small shops which sell their hand-made arts and crafts. The lodging opportunities range from primitive cabins and bed and breakfasts in the surrounding woods to nationally known hotels. A great on-line resource for Nashville lodging and other amenities is www.browncountylodging.com.

Story
The area just to the west of Story, Indiana was flooded in 1960 when the Monroe Reservoir was created. This severed the main road which connected Story with Bloomington. This isolation, along with the Great Depression, contributed to Story’s decline. The town and its surrounding area is now privately owned by a family who has opened up to the public its remaining relics of the past and offers a gourmet restaurant and a bed and breakfast. Directions and more information can be found at their website: www.storyinn.com. The town is about a 7 mile walk through Hoosier National Forest and along Elkinsville Road, from the Tecumseh Trail end at Panther Creek. You can read more at www.storyinn.com.