

PREPARE TO SCREAM!

Hanna Haunted Acres

Dom Williams
editor-in-chief

With many haunted houses around the Indianapolis area to choose from, I chose to go to Hanna Haunted Acres.

Having been before, I was pretty familiar with Hanna Haunted Acres and its attractions. Hanna boasts four different house attractions for guests to walk through, each with different titles and themes. It is not uncommon for haunted houses to have more than one house to go through; however, having four separate houses ensures diversity among the attractions. Two other attractions that Hanna offers are a haunted corn maze and a haunted hayride, neither of which are offered at the other popular haunted houses in the area.

As far as the attractions go, I thought they were pretty fun although somewhat tame compared to other haunted houses. At other places like Nightmare on Edgewood and Indy Scream Park, the employees are allowed to touch and grab guests. Hanna, on the other hand, does not allow this, which can be seen as a positive feature for many people. But for others like myself, the grabbing and physicality of other haunted houses ly make them

Hanna's tions conjumpscares, and the creep- rather than guests physical- contact. The relies on creepy characters also their roles by guests from the chasing them which I thought

The hay- nitely tailored e a s y - g o i n g it was still fun. a tractor trailer taken on a path

woods filled with huge props and scary scenes along with actors who jump on the trailer with the goal of scaring guests.

Another aspect that has to be looked at when comparing it to other places is the price of tickets. The standard ticket allows for entry into all six attractions one time each and is around \$35 after taxes and fees. I do not think this is a bad price considering how much there is to do. Guests also have the option to buy other tickets, such as an unlimited pass to go through all attractions as many times as wanted or for the hayride only.

Nightmare on Edgewood's tickets are pretty comparable to that of Hanna Haunted Acres, and they are both about the same distance away from Greenwood, so choosing between the two would really boil down to whether or not guests want to be physically touched during their experience. Indy Scream park is both more expensive and farther away.

Looking back, I had fun at Hanna Haunted Acres, and I do think it is a great place to go with friends and family around the Halloween season. However, after getting older, I view it more as a "childish" haunted house and would personally prefer to go to a house where the scares are more violent and physical.

Nightmare on Edgewood

Alex Kramer
design editor

Halloween marks the beginning of horror movies, trick or treating, and, of course, Haunted Houses. A Haunted house is meant to leave people on edge at all times and expect a fright at every turn. Nightmare on Edgewood, however, fails to bring me to this point.

The drive to Nightmare on Edgewood was probably the scariest part. The thick downtown traffic along with the proximity to the area called "Hobo Alley" made for an uneasy drive. However, the actual haunted house was in a nice location and was tucked away and made for a nice, secluded feel. We were greeted by a man in full costume with a flamethrower, and after no wait, we shoved into the instruction room.

Before this year, I had never experienced Nightmare on Edgewood nor a haunted house where they could touch people. So, this whole trip was a lot of firsts for me. However, when we got into the actual attractions, I felt underwhelmed. People in costume often broke character and talked to me normally, the jumpscares felt lackluster, and the whole time I felt like I knew what was going

to happen.

The best parts of the haunted house, though, are the set designs, ingenuity, and the execution of the scenes. Apparatuses in the front room would move and talk to you and many times impressive feats of engineering would catch my attention rather than scaring me. For example, a skeleton that was at least 15 feet tall appeared from behind a closed wall that split open and revealed the skeleton holding a mannequin.

The scare factor, while the worst part, was improved by the actor's ability to touch people. There is nothing quite like being thrown on a table by a brolic man as friends watch through a window and he takes a saw to a kidney saying "He's too big. These will be useless." While this did make the whole experience more fun and scary, there was not much of it. I only found myself being touched two or three times, and it was only pushing on my back.

Overall, the haunted house was extremely well put together yet felt unscary and left me wanting more. For the \$38 price tag, short lines, and short drive, I could see myself going back next year to see any improvements.



Seniors Brady Cave, Alex Kramer and Carter Chatham experience one of the many horror themed houses at Indy Scream Park. The house was full of red light and scary creatures. Brady Cave photo

Indy Scream Park

Brady Cave
sports editor

Indy Scream Park has received eye-catching reviews for good reason since opening in 2010.

It was my first time attending the haunted house. I had high expectations as the website was full of positive reviews and had an enticing video showing what the park had to offer. Indy Scream Park has six different attractions. One of the attractions was very unique, the zombie-hunting attraction was like no other I have seen. The attraction consisted of shooting zombies with paintballs, which was very fun. The park's other attractions were Lockdown, Zombieland Unchained, Backwoods, Nightmare Facility Blackout, and Kilgore's 3D Circus. These other attractions were more typical, haunted houses and fields with various jumpscares and loud noises.

One thing that I noticed about this haunted house compared to others I have been to is the use of technology. Most haunted houses scare people with actors, but Indy Scream Park had lots of electronics that went into the process, whether it was doors slamming, beds shaking, or loud noises coming from behind a door.

The park is open from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday, and 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Saturday. Pricing varies depending on the night but range from \$27.95 - \$40.95. Some activities cost extra at Indy Scream Park. The only one I paid extra for was the Zombie paintball attraction, which was \$11.95 for 100 paintballs.

The location was the only downside for me, as Indy Scream Park is nearly an hour away. Other parks, like Hanna Haunted Acres and Nightmare on Edgewood, are only 20-30 minutes away.

Outside of the long haul to get there, this haunted house is probably my favorite that I have been to. It was a lot scarier than Hanna Haunted Acres, and the paintball attraction was fun. I like the idea a lot.



Seniors Dom Williams, Josh Carroll, Alex Kramer, and Alex Skinner witness a flamethrower at Nightmare on Edgewood. The actor frightened the high schoolers. Dom Williams photo

