Parke County is located in West Central Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Fountain to the north, Montgomery to the northeast, Putnam to the east and southeast, Clay to the south, Vigo to the south and southwest, and Vermillion to the west. State Highway 59 and U.S. Highways 41 and 36 cross the county. Elevation is 500-750 feet. Except for some slightly sloping terrain along the northwest border, the county vacillates between nearly flat and moderately to steeply sloping terrains. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The county pertains to three different land resource areas: the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain (the majority of the county); the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain (areas in the southeast); and the Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes (some areas in the southwest).

Parke county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are about 18°/36° in January and 64°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 15-30 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs first in the far north regions (October 10-15) and a few days later in the rest of the county (October 15-20). The last freeze usually occurs earliest in the southern half of the county (April 20-25) and a few days later in the northern half (April 15-30). The growing season lasts about 168-183 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock, soybeans and corn for grain. A little less than two-thirds of the land is in farms and about two-thirds of that is in cash crops. Almost three-fourths of the cash income is from crops. Additional crops include hay and winter wheat. Popcorn is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel and forestland. Water resources include the Wabash River, a multitude of lake/reservoirs (including about 2 dozen Little Raccoon Lakes, Alma Like, Mansfield Reservoir, and Rock Fork Lake), and various streams (Sugar, Rush, Leatherwood, Big Raccoon and Little Raccoon Creeks).

Communities include the towns of Rockville, which is the county seat, Bloomingdale, Judson, Marshall, Mecca, Montezuma, Rockville, and Rosedale.
Parke County is not a tobacco-producing county, according to the Strategic Development Group’s “Alternative Agricultural Strategy” (Bloomington, March 15, 2001) report, which is part of Governor Joseph E. Kernan’s “Recipient Final Reports for Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture Grant Programs” (http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html):