

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Experience Your America



Report to the Community 2009





In 2009, filmmaker Ken Burns' six-part series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," premiered on PBS. Millions of viewers tuned in to be inspired and awed by the wonders of our national parks. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of those national parks. Sure, we go by the title of "national lakeshore," but this park is part of the National Park System and whether we call it a park or lakeshore, it is one of the jewels of our country. In 2009, 1,944,375 visits were made to the national

lakeshore, a 6.0% increase over 2008. This annual report, the first we have ever issued, is to draw attention to some of our activities and accomplishments in 2009. No printed report can capture everything we do in one year, all the experiences visitors have, or all the contributions made by our partners and volunteers. This is a snapshot of some highlights of how we are "making America's best idea even better."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Costa".

Superintendent
Constantine J. Dillon





We're Making America's Best Idea Even Better

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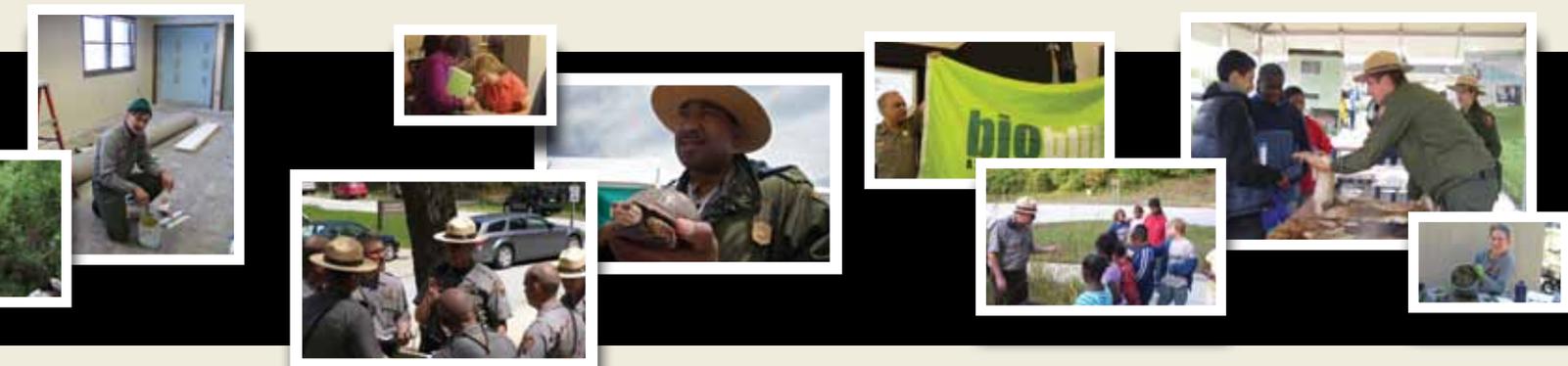
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Preserving our Natural Resources



Caring for the Environment

Preserving and managing the 15,000 acres of woodlands, prairie, wetlands, lake waters, and other natural resources of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is our primary job.

Great Marsh Restoration Project Process

Once stretching from Michigan City to the Illinois state line, the Great Marsh is largely gone. Restoring this marsh has been a major National Park Service goal and a great success story. Approximately 600 acres of the marsh are in various states of restoration. Wildlife, including beavers and a variety of birds, has returned to the area, creating a watchable wildlife site for visitors. In 2009, invasive plants like reed canary grass, hybrid cattail, common reed and purple loosestrife were removed and 3400 native plants representing 14 species were planted.

Great Marsh Hydrology Study Underway

In 2008, the NPS began a multi-year study of the hydrology of the Great Marsh to determine surface and sub-surface water flows that might be affecting nearby private property. The second year of the study gathered vital information on ground water and

surface levels near and within the town of Beverly Shores. The final report is expected in late 2010.

Whitetail Deer Management Plan

An open house to review the Environmental Impact Statement for Whitetail Deer Management was held in June. More than 500 comments were received on the proposed plan. The NPS will respond to all comments and expects to have a final, approved plan during the first half of 2010.

Cowles Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC) Restoration

Cowles Bog (technically a fen) is a National Natural Landmark and often regarded as the birthplace of American ecology. In the past 10 years, invasive species of plants, including hybrid cattails and reeds, have choked out much of the wetland and displaced native species. In 2009 the NPS began a multi-year plan to restore the area to a more natural environment. Cattail, purple loosestrife, and common reed were removed or treated with herbicides. Approximately 26,500 plants representing 33 native plant species were installed. This project is a partnership with the town of Dune Acres and the NPS welcomes volunteers to help with this work. This year, white cedar saplings will be planted in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

Removal of Hazardous Structures and

Demolition Site Restoration

Much of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was once developed property. Demolishing structures to restore natural lands, improve the environment, and provide for visitor use, is an ongoing effort. In 2009, structures and outbuildings at four sites were removed and ten wells were closed. Asbestos abatement was conducted at eight sites. A former salt dome restoration site (0.5 acres) and a former roadbed at Hyacinth (0.3 acres) were seeded with native plants.

Contamination Investigation

NPS staff continued to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on the Yard 520 Pines Site, an unlined fly-ash landfill which is a Superfund Alternative Site.

Parkwide Invasive Plant Management

Invasive (non-native) plants threaten much of the park. Non-native plants change the environment of the park and alter the balance of birds, insects, and other animals that live here. Invasive plants often increase the danger of wildfire more than native and contribute to loss of native diversity. The NPS focused efforts on some of the most highly invasive species, including common reed, cattail, oriental bittersweet, black locust, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed and garlic mustard. The Great Lakes Exotic Plant Management Team (GLEPMT) provided funding for two Student Conservation Association interns who worked on removing invasive plants. The traveling GLEPMT four-person crew spent several weeks treating invasive cattail and common reed. This year's combined total of terrestrial non-native plants treated by park staff and the GLEPMT was 38.8 infested acres throughout the park. The NPS continues to co-lead the interagency Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network in working to control



invasive species throughout the region. The NPS is a participant in the Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area (ICCWMA) and is on the steering committee with state and local governments, non-profits, and private land managers in northwest Indiana.

Rare Plant Improvement

The park reintroduced beach pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), a state-listed rare species. Twenty beach pea plants have survived for two years, and if these plants survive a third year and flower, they have the potential to become a viable population. An additional 150 beach pea plants were propagated and planted in the park. Re-establishment of white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) was done at Cowles Bog. Two other state listed species; hairy-leaved lake sedge (*Carex atherodes*) and white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) were propagated and planted.

Prairie Restoration

Park staff and volunteers completed restoration work on 20 acres of Mnoké Prairie, transplanting over 5,100 native plant plugs from the park greenhouse. Numerous volunteers assisted with this effort and we are always happy to have additional volunteer help.

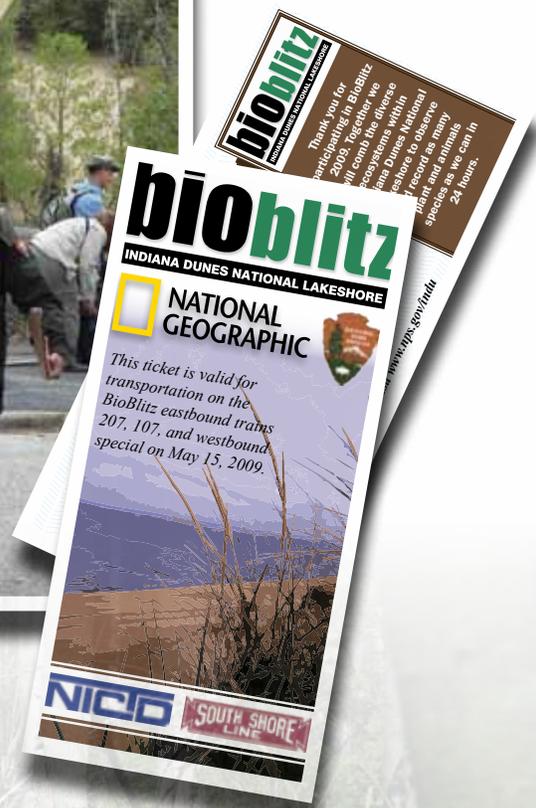
Fire Program Accomplishments

The park's fire personnel respond to park wildfires, assist local fire departments, and manage prescribed fires to improve ecosystems and reduce wildfires. In 2009, fire team staff completed:

- Wildland Urban Interface projects including thinning around park structures and clearing 70 acres of fuel breaks between national lakeshore property and the bordering private lands.
- Fire fighters extinguished 19 wildland fires totaling 165 acres, and completed 4 prescribed fires totaling 489 acres.
- The NPS awarded a total of \$13,700 to the Beverly Shores Volunteer Fire Department and Pines Volunteer Fire Department as part of the Department of the Interior's Rural Fire Assistance Program.

A Successful BioBlitz

The park hosted a 24-hour BioBlitz event in partnership with the National Geographic Society, and in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Wilderness, and other organizations. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore BioBlitz was part scientific endeavor, part outdoor classroom, and part festival. Scientist-led teams of volunteers dispersed throughout the national lakeshore to develop a nature inventory: observing and recording as many plant and animal species as possible in 24 hours. More than 5000 citizen-scientists, 2,000 of whom were students, and 150 scientists, participated in the event. Tasks included wading in creeks to find amphibians and aquatic insects, sweeping nets through fields to count butterflies, searching the dunes for hidden wildflowers, and catching bats with nets at night. More than 1,200 different species were identified: including several which were not previously known to exist in the national lakeshore.



Preserving our Cultural Resources



Saving Our History

Many people think of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as only a natural park, but the national lakeshore has a number of historic and cultural sites as well. The park has more than 60 historic structures, 90,000 museum objects, and archeological sites documenting 10,000 years of human habitation. Protecting and restoring these historic resources is an ongoing effort.

An Environmental Assessment for the Historic Structures Report and Cultural Landscape Report for the Good Fellow Club Youth Camp was distributed for public comment. The environmental assessment makes recommendations for treatment of the site and the types of uses that would support long term preservation of the historic scene. A final document will be issued in 2010.

Restoration of Historic Structures Continues

Restoration work was initiated on the Bailly Homestead, the only National Historic Landmark in

northwestern Indiana. Architectural documentation of the Bailly Brick House was completed for research and compliance purposes. Restoration of the Bailly Cemetery is underway and will continue in 2010.

Work continues on the Century of Progress Homes and the Oscar and Irene Nelson Site on U.S. Highway 12, through partnership with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and private individuals. The majority of work on these properties will be completed in 2010 and they will be usable for the first time in many years. The Field Station Cooperative completed rehabilitation of the Lindstrom historic site on Howe Road and is using it to expand their preschool programs.

South Shore Railroad Cars Donated

In the 1980s, Congressional legislation resulted in the NPS acquiring 17 historic South Shore Railroad Cars. Since the national lakeshore did not have funding to maintain these cars or a place to store them, loan agreements were established with interested railroad museums. These museums maintain and exhibit the cars for their visitors. In 2009, NPS began the process of donating these cars to the museums that have cared for them for years.



Visitor Use and Recreation



Providing Public Safety and Revitalizing Communities

Nearly 3 million people visit the combined Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park each year, making this the number one outdoor visitor destination in Indiana. Recreation for enjoyment, for education, for physical fitness, and for inspiration is part of the mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Visitor Program Participation

- 38,059 visitors were contacted on the beach as part of the park's increased water safety program
- 6,579 children completed a park Junior Ranger Program
- 400 badges were awarded to kids who completed the Junior Firefighter Program
- 5,176 visitors attended the Duneland Harvest Festival
- 2,531 visitors attended the Maple Sugar Time Program
- 5,112 visitors attended the "Biodiversity Fair" portion of the BioBlitz
- 71,153 total visitors entered the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
- 3,201 visitors attended formal interpretation programs including the Century of Progress Homes Tour, campfire talks at the campground, Pinhook Bog Open Houses, Midsummer Celebration, snowshoe hikes, and seasonal ranger-led walks.
- 30,000 students served in environmental education programs prepared and presented by the Dunes Learning Center and the National Park Service

97% Visitor Satisfaction

Each year, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and all national parks conduct a survey of visitor use. The 2009 survey revealed that 97% of park visitors were satisfied with the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities of the national lakeshore. That is an increase from our 2008 rating and among the highest of any national park. The full survey results are available on our website at www.nps.gov/indu.

Water Safety Improved

After three drowning-related incidents in 2008, the NPS initiated a multi-pronged approach to improving visitor safety and awareness at the shore. Among the actions: assigning park guides to provide safety information and assistance to beach goers, improved bilingual water safety signs, placing water safety information in the park's Singing Sands newspaper, adding more information to the park's website, and issuing news releases emphasizing water safety. NOAA initiated rip current warnings in its standard weather forecasts and the park began referencing those forecasts. The park also conducted a Water Safety Program Analysis in a partnership with the Student Conservation Association. We are pleased that there were no drownings in 2009 and we will continue to emphasize water safety and make improvements to the water safety program in 2010.



Law Enforcement Activities

In 2009, National Park Service rangers responded to 2,289 incidents: 43 felony type offenses, 1,707 misdemeanor type offenses (835 incidents which resulted in verbal warnings issued to 3,483 offenders), and 539 service incidents. Of the 539 service incidents, 12 involved search and rescue, 43 involved emergency medical services, and 20 involved natural resources.

More than 30,000 marijuana plants, found growing in the park, were destroyed before they went to seed. Local authorities placed the value of these plants at approximately \$800 per mature plant for a total value of over \$24,000,000. The plants were mulched into vegetative cover as part of the park's resource recovery program.

Lake Michigan Water Trail Inaugurated

A new Lake Michigan Water Trail was inaugurated in 2009 to encourage paddling sports along the shoreline. This partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association, the states of Indiana and Illinois, and local towns and cities, is the first effort in increasing use of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a place for paddling. In 2010, kayak lockers will be installed on the east end of the park allowing kayakers to store their boats at the shore and spend the night at the Dunewood Campground. Signs at other locations will direct paddlers to amenities and services within the national lakeshore, at the state park, and in nearby cities and towns. Future efforts will be directed at making the Little Calumet River through the national lakeshore suitable for paddling.

Comprehensive Visitor Survey Completed

In conjunction with the National Park Service Social Science Program and the University of Idaho, the park conducted an in-depth survey of national lakeshore visitors in 2009. This will update the last detailed survey that was completed in 1997. Over the course of the summer visitors were given surveys to complete that will better enable us to better understand our visitors' needs and expectations. Results of the survey will be published in 2010.

Re-Opening the Paul H. Douglas Center

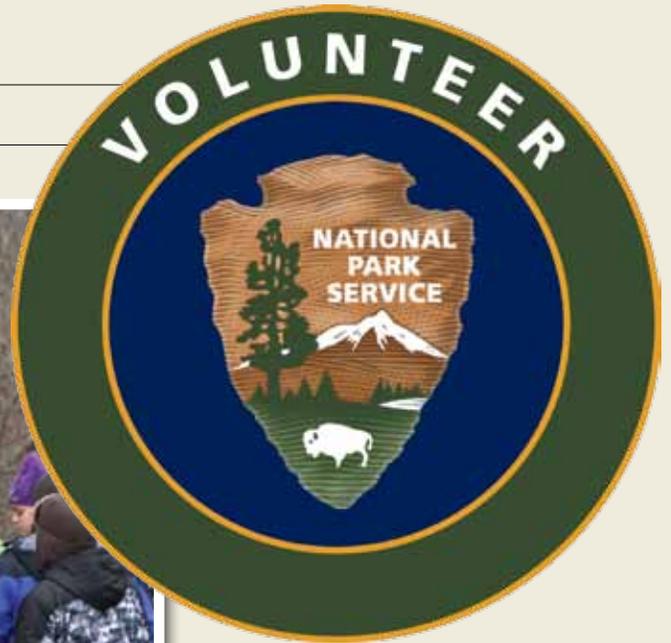
The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education was built specifically to introduce children to the resources of the national lakeshore. After an absence of many years, the park reestablished a permanent staff at the Douglas Center to better reach visitors and neighbors on the west end of the national lakeshore. Three NPS employees are now based at the center and new public programs are offered to children and families. All new exhibits were installed in the foyer of the center. In 2010 we will expand our Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program, outreach programs, and other opportunities to make the Douglas Center and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore a more vital part of Gary and Lake County.

Park Receives R.O.S.E. Award

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore received the Recognition of Service Excellence Unity Award from the Porter County Convention, Recreation & Visitor Commission for its work towards unifying the region's tourism.

Inviting Stewardship

Partnerships and Volunteers



Community involvement, volunteers, civic engagement, and public stewardship are critical to managing the park. In 2009, the NPS initiated, hosted, and participated in a variety of activities engaging the public. 1,457 volunteers contributed 30,126 hours of time to the park.

Grand Opening of the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

The culmination of a partnership effort between the National Park Service, State of Indiana, City of Portage and Northwest Indiana Redevelopment Commission to acquire 57 acres of industrial land and convert it to national park land culminated in the opening of the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site. The LEED Certified Gold building, fishing pier, and riverwalk added an entirely new access to Lake Michigan. By the end of 2009, more than 100,000 visitors had enjoyed the national lakeshore's newest facilities. Owned by the National Park Service, the site is operated by the City of Portage in a partnership that is the first of its kind in the nation.

Paint the Parks Exhibit at the Lake County Visitor Center

The national "Paint the Parks" art exhibit stopped at the Lake County Visitor Center in Hammond. This annual competition and traveling exhibit highlights paintings by a variety of artists of national parks across the country. The 2009 national winner was a painting of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. We will again work with the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority to host the exhibition March 15-May 1, 2010. Interested artists can submit paintings for the competition by going to www.paintamerica.org/painttheparks.html

Volunteer Site and Trail Corps Launched

The park initiated the Volunteer Site and Trail Corps Program to help us monitor park trails and remote sites. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore stretches across 15 cities and towns and rangers cannot be everywhere. Participants in this program receive training on park resources and procedures and then patrol trails and sites in the park to observe conditions and report problems to the NPS. This is a great opportunity to join in the protection of your favorite part of the park. Contact Lynda Lancaster at the national lakeshore if you would like to be a part of this fun new effort.

Volunteer Projects Involve Local Businesses

Both individuals and companies are invited to volunteer at the national lakeshore. Last year, volunteers from Target Stores cleaned and painted the Dunes Learning Center cabins and mulched trails in the campground. United Way and 300 athletes from local schools mulched trails, painted buildings, and picked up litter. Unilever and Clear Seas contributed to the restoration of Cowles Bog. Home Depot provided people power to a number of park projects.

Youth Programs Expand

The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program hosted 3 participants: two from Portage school district and one from Gary. The Gary teacher worked with the Youth Partnership project and coordinated 15 youths working in the summer on resource management projects.

60 youth participated in the ParKids Program and 15 teens participated in the Green Team summer youth program in partnership with Groundwork Gary.

DARE Program Continues

The National Park Service participation in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program continued in 2009. A total of 115, 4th and 5th graders of the Marquette Elementary School in Gary, Indiana completing the program. Russell and Pam Bass, Depot Dog proprietors, donated a hot dog lunch for all involved.



Park Neighbors Program

If you live in or near Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore this new program is for you. We want to involve people who live in and around the national lakeshore to become an active part of protecting park resources. Participants learn how to use native species in their home landscaping, what to do if they have a problem with wildlife, alternatives to toxic chemicals that might find their way into park waterways, and other information on how to be a good neighbor to the park. Participants are encouraged to give the NPS advice on how we can be better neighbors to private landowners. Contact Lynda Lancaster at the park if you would like to sign up. There is no work or volunteer requirements. Participants are a self-governing group who share information and resources.

www.nps.gov/indu/parkneighbors.htm

Facilities and Operations



Efficiency, Sustainability, and Greening our Infrastructure

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore maintains visitor and administrative facilities that include more than 300 structures, 45 miles of trails and boardwalks, 87 restrooms, roads, fences, HVAC systems, water and sewer infrastructure, and vehicles. Managing these facilities as efficiently as possible and improving our sustainability are important park goals.



Greening the Park

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore maintains a National Park Service “Green” rating for program management. In 2009 we made great strides in improving our sustainable practices.

- All new benches and litter containers are made from recycled materials
- All tires and rubber products recycled
- The park uses 100% green chemicals
- New Big Belly solar-powered trash compacting cans installed at Porter, Lake View and Bailly Contact Station
- Recycled in excess of 34,860 lbs of scrap metal
- Recycled 58 lbs of fluorescent bulbs and 93 lamps
- Cut, removed, and recycled 80% of the fence at the Portage Lakefront Property and Miller Woods, recycling well over 10,000 pounds of metal.
- Replaced six vehicles in the park with vehicles that meet alternate fuel requirements: 3 are E85 and 3 are hybrids.
- The custodial program uses 100% “green” vehicles: two are CNG (compressed natural gas), one flex fuel and one hybrid.
- Switched to Bio Based oils for all saws and two cycle equipment. All parts cleaners are now bio-based.
- Installed 12 new water saver toilets in both loops of campground.

Planning and Management

Preparing for the Future



Planning for the future of the park and responding to changing conditions is a regular part of park management. Public involvement is an important part of this process. As part of the National Park System, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore follows policies and practices of all national parks and also provides services to other parks in the region.

East-West Trail Connector Plans Detailed

Connecting the east and west sections of the park to each other and the regional hike/bike trail system remains a high priority for the park. An East-West Trail Connector Plan was issued in 2009 in conjunction with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, local communities, and organizations. Construction costs for the 6 miles of trail on NPS lands are estimated to be \$6 million. We will continue to seek funding to make this important connector trail a reality.



Assistance to Other National Parks



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of 392 parks in the National Park System and all national parks provide assistance to other parks.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is the home site of the Great Lakes Research and Education Center that assists research and education in the other national parks in the Great Lakes region. We also maintain the dispatch center for national parks in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. This 24/7 operation serves parks as far away as Isle Royale National Park in Michigan and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota. Dispatchers at Indiana Dunes monitor boat operations, aircraft operations, law enforcement situations, and search and rescue missions.



In 2009 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore employees assisted Lincoln Boyhood National Historic Site with clean-up after an ice storm in March, and conducted fire operations at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Lincoln Boyhood National Historic Site

SecureID Implemented



New Department of Homeland Security standards require that all federal employees have background investigations and be issued specially encoded identification badges. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was selected as the national SecureID processing station for the lower Lake Michigan areas of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. The station

opened in August 2009, and processed more than 200 government employees from a variety of agencies.

Public Comment Opportunities Expanded

The NPS seeks public comment and suggestions in a variety of forums. Superintendent Dillon held four “listening sessions” in the summer. Public meetings were held on the Deer Management Plan and the Good Fellow Club Youth Camp Environmental Assessment. There were two public meetings on the

future of the Chellberg Farm. The NPS initiated a series of workshops on “Working with the NPS,” that focused on National Park Service planning and organizing friends groups. These workshops will continue in 2010 with sessions on NPS budgeting, volunteering, and other topics of interest.

In order to improve relationships with the four lakefront communities surrounded by the national lakeshore, six meetings were held with members of the public from Porter Beach, Ogden Dunes, Dune Acres, and Beverly Shores. These meetings will continue in 2010.

For more information on what is going on in the park, and for more detailed reports, including reports related to the Government Performance and Results Act, please see the park website www.nps.gov/indu.

2010 Projects

Great Things Coming



There is always something going on at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and we are always looking to improve the national lakeshore and the visitor experiences. Here are a few of the things on the schedule for 2010.

- New sign plan for the entire national lakeshore that will improve wayfinding, safety, and public awareness of the park.
- As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the NPS will install new solar-powered lighting throughout the park, install two “green” roofs on administrative buildings, and hire additional employees for invasive species management.
- The National Park Service is working with the Federal Highways Administration to finalize plans for repairs at the intersection of Beverly Drive and East State Park Road in Beverly Shores. Construction is set to begin in 2010.
- A new trail is proposed for the Great Marsh that will give visitors access to this excellent birding area. Public comment will be solicited before the trail is built.
- A Commercial Services Plan will be done to determine what, if any, private businesses might be suitable in the park to provide visitor services.
- The NPS will relaunch its boat operation on Lake Michigan to provide law enforcement and visitor safety needs. The boat has been undergoing repair and will be ready this summer.
- As part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the NPS will be engaged in a number of projects in partnership with other federal agencies and local entities. Invasive species management and water quality programs will be most visible. The NPS will also pay for a study of shoreline erosion and potential remedies.
- A Visitor Circulation and Parking Study initiated in 2009 will be completed in 2010. This study will recommend methods to improve parking and access using existing roads, parking areas, and public transportation.
- Construction of the Porter Brickyard Trail will begin. This trail, a partnership between the NPS and the Town of Porter, will connect the Prairie Duneland Trail with the Calumet Trail.
- In partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs, the First Bloom Program will engage youth in restoring native plants to the park.
- In partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association and other partners, we will seek to increase the use of the Lake Michigan and the Little Calumet River for paddling.

While this report highlights accomplishments of 2009, we don't want to forget what we do every day:



- Protect 120 miles of boundary in national parklands spread across 3 counties.
- Protect people and resources by patrolling hundreds of miles of road
- Protect 15 miles coast-one-third of Indiana's Lake Michigan Shoreline
- Maintain, repair, and manage more than 300 structures
- Care for 45 miles of trails and boardwalks open for public use
- Clean and maintain 87 restrooms
- Protect four National Natural Landmarks within the park
- Protect and maintain the Bailly Homestead National Historic Landmark
- Clean, repair, and manage more than 25 parking lots
- Provide wildland fire protection for the park and provide assistance to local fire departments
- Protect threatened and endangered species
- Operate a 24/7 emergency dispatch center that serves this and seven other national parks
- Protect life and property through the law enforcement in the park and cooperation with local agencies
- Maintain the Dunewood Campground and its 23,000 annual campers
- Provide programs for more than 10,000 school children through the Dunes Learning Center, Junior Ranger Program, and Field Station Cooperative
- Provide emergency medical services and search & rescue to visitors and residents
- Maintain the park's phones, computers, radios, and office equipment

National Lakeshore Is an Economic Driver

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is more than just a great place to visit; the park also contributes to the local economy. According to studies done by Michigan State University, visitor spending contributed some \$58 million to the regional economy in 2009. Spending by non-local visitors, combined with the park's operating program, supports nearly 1000 local jobs.



How you Can Help

Make Your Voice Heard

You can become involved in how Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is managed. Three ways to do this are to comment on plans, volunteer, or apply for a job.

Make Your Voice Heard

The NPS regularly seeks public comment on plans. You can make your voice heard by attending any of the planning meetings and public hearings. These are announced in the local media and on our website. If you would like to be placed on a email list for public notices contact lynda_lancaster@nps.gov.

In addition to face-to-face meetings, public comments are also solicited through the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system on the park website www.nps.gov/indu. Through this system the public can keep track of proposed park projects and make comments online.

Be a Volunteer



Volunteers are vital to the success of the National Park Service. The Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program can accept and use voluntary help and services from the public, in a way that is mutually beneficial to the NPS and the volunteer. Each year

more than 120,000 volunteers donate over 4 million hours of service in the national parks. At Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in we had 1,457 volunteers contribute 30,126 hours of service in 2009. To become involved, see the opportunities on the park website www.nps.gov or at www.volunteer.gov/gov.

Apply for a Job

The national lakeshore has about 75 permanent employees and hires an additional 100 employees during the busy summer season. If you would like to work here you must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. All jobs are posted at www.usajobs.gov. Summer job postings are usually opened in January, so check early in the year. Jobs are rarely available by the time summer arrives. Most jobs pay at least \$14.00 an hour.

If you are in high school, you may be eligible for the Youth Conservation Corps Program. We hire about 20 high school youths from surrounding communities for this program each summer. Details are at www.nps.gov/youthprograms/ycc.htm.







Water Safety
 Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rip currents occur frequently during periods of high wind and waves. During the winter, shelf ice forms along the lakeshore and is never safe to walk on. Check with local authorities about conditions and potential hazards.

Note: There are no lifeguards at any national lakeshore beaches during the fall, winter and spring.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore encompasses 15,152 acres within Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. The park lies within 8 Townships:

- Calumet
- Coolspring
- Michigan
- Pine
- Portage
- Ross
- St. John
- Westchester

And within 15 cities and towns:

- Beverly Shores
- Burns Harbor
- Chesterton
- Dune Acres
- Gary
- Griffith
- Highland
- Hobart
- Lake Station
- Michigan City
- Ogden Dunes
- Pines
- Portage
- Porter
- Schererville





Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 North Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304
www.nps.gov/indu