



A Publication of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Update

By Mike Molnar, IDNR LMCP

The LMCP still continues to provide the financial and technical assistance to the Coastal Region. The LMCP received a very modest increase in Federal funding for basic program operations and the Nonpoint Program for FY09. The LMCP plans to pass through \$712,000 of this for grant funded projects. An additional sum of money is being put towards the second phase of the Public Access Management Plan. This work is to be conducted by the Eppley Institute and is comprised of several parts: access conditions assessment, gap analysis, priority indexing, community benchmarking, and public focus groups.

The LMCP receives input and project priorities from the Coastal Advisory Board. Director Rob Carter recently appointed members to the Board for the 2009-2011 session. At the previous CAB meeting on April 15th the Board elected as Chair - Bob Thompson, Porter County Planner, and Vice-chair – Becky Fox, PCCRVC Marketing Director. Chair Thompson and the rest of the Board invite the public to the next Board meeting on June 17th at 6:15 PM as the Coastal Grants Program begins the 2010 Grant Priority setting process.

Information regarding the new Board is online at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/board/index.html>.

Pedestrian Bridge over Little Calumet River in Porter Complete

By Jenny Orsburn, IDNR LMCP

The Town of Porter Redevelopment Commission received a \$100,000 Coastal Grant in 2006 to install a pedestrian bridge over the Little Calumet River as a vital link in the completion of the Orchard Pedestrian Way. The 225 foot aluminum and wood bridge is located on Waverly Road, south of U.S. 20.

The Orchard Pedestrian Bridge and elevated pathway is the result of several years of planning the Orchard Pedestrian Way, which is a separate project under design funded by federal grant from the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) Program. The bridge connects the north and south walkway.

According to Jenny Orsburn, Program Specialist for Lake Michigan Coastal Program, this is the first pedestrian bridge to be constructed using LMCP grant money. Improving public access to the natural areas of the Lake Michigan watershed is a key component to the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. Now residents and visitors can safely enjoy the view of the beautifully wooded stream corridor, full of trillium and marsh marigold, which borders along Porter's Hawthorne Park.



The bridge overlooks the Little Calumet River (East Branch), a Salmonid stream where Steelhead, Chinook and Coho thrive. The Little Calumet River begins in LaPorte County, flows through Porter County and drains into Lake Michigan via the Burns Waterway in Portage.

Sock It To It!

By Joe Exl, IDNR LMCP

With the '09 boating season about ready to get underway, the Indiana Clean Marina Program is excited to announce that it will be distributing free bilge socks to local marinas and recreational boaters.

Bilges can be a source of pollution since they tend to collect fuel, oil and other lubricants that have leaked from the engine. Fuel, oil and other lubricants can contain potential pollutants such as petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals.

Whenever the bilge pump is activated, these pollutants along with the bilge water are pumped overboard. At first these pollutants may float on the surface of the water and give off a rainbow colored sheen. Over time, they settle to the bottom and accumulate in the sediment. Aquatic organisms that feed along the bottom may ingest these pollutants and transmit them up the food chain to ultimately be consumed by a variety of wildlife or even people.

Recreational boaters can reduce this risk by simply placing a bilge sock on the bottom of their boat's bilge compartment. Bilge socks can effectively remove fuel and oil from the bilge water by absorbing them. Coupled with regular and proper boat engine maintenance, boater can help protect our aquatic resources.



Look familiar? You can avoid this mess and reduce your impact on the environment by using a bilge sock!



“With the bilge sock give away we’re hoping to raise boater awareness on proper bilge maintenance and the effect they can have on local water quality.” says Joe Exl, who manages the LMCP’s Coastal Nonpoint Program.

Nearly 2,900 bilge socks will be distributed this year by the Indiana Clean Marina Program. Each sock can absorb roughly 1-gallon of fuel/oil. That’s nearly 2,900 gallons of fuel and oil that can be kept out of our local waterways this year.

Not to bad for putting a sock in it.

For more information about the *Indiana Clean Marina Program* please visit:

www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/4747.htm

Or contact:

Joe Exl: (219) 921-0863 / jexl@dnr.in.gov

Indiana's coastal sand dune managers attend Dune Management workshop

By Jenny Orsburn, IDNR LMCP

Indiana's sand dunes have been impacted by the increased amount of visitors seeking to recreate in our coastal areas. Erosion from foot traffic among the dunes have exacerbated the normally slow erosion and movement of sand, leading to management decisions such as fencing closures of dune areas to visitors. Indiana's sand dunes are also naturally active, living geologic formations that respond to wind, precipitation and lake levels. Park Property Managers and local community leaders along the shoreline employ a variety of tactics to control sand dune erosion and movement year after year.

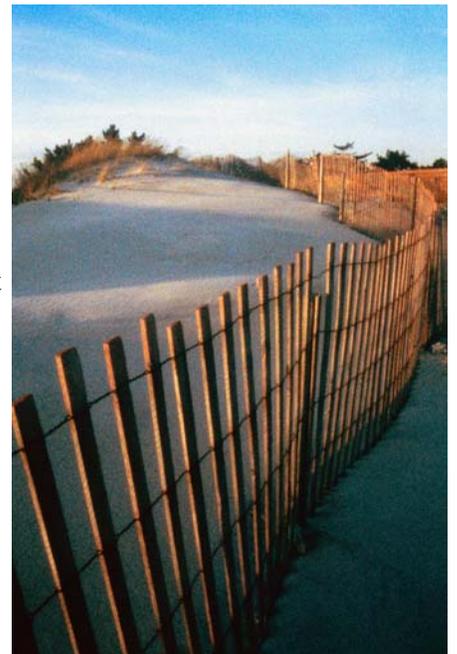
Issues:

- Managing the visitors in sand dune ecosystems is seen as a challenge
- There are a variety of management strategies employed by the varying jurisdictions
- The message may appear to be inconsistent to the visitor
- Sand dunes are fragile ecosystems worth protecting
- The visitor's understanding of the dynamics of sand movement is limited

In early February, the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, Indiana Dunes State Park, and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore hosted a 1 1/2 day workshop for 25 property managers, local decision-makers, researchers and experts with first-hand knowledge of the challenges of working in a heavily visited sand dune ecosystems to discuss the level of damage and share maintenance strategies. The workshop was facilitated by NOAA Coastal Services Center. NOAA Coastal Services Center developed a Managing Visitor Use curriculum that is a decision making framework that incorporates problem awareness, problem specifications, strategies and implementation, would also include human dimensions coastal resource management component.

This workshop was an opportunity to educate colleagues on natural sand dune dynamics, visitor impacts, lessons learned and new opportunities for collaboration. The group also discussed secondary impacts such as invasion of exotic plant species, and other property management challenges. Presentations of dune ecology were provided by Dr. Noel Pavlovic of the United States Geologic Survey Lake Michigan Ecology Station and John Ervin, Regional Ecologist for the DNR Division of

Nature Preserves. Also speaking to the group was, Dr. Zoran Kilibarda of Indiana University Northwest, who presented his research on erosion rates of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Mt. Baldy.



September 5-13, 2009

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program and several other organizations are working together to sponsor a wide variety of events to celebrate the diversity and splendor of the Lake Michigan Coastal Region. Wherever your interests lie, there is sure to be an activity or two that you'll find interesting and exciting. *To find out more, visit:*

www.in.gov/dnr/coastweek

Calendar of Events

Regional Development Authority

Board Meeting Dates:

May 19, 2009 * 10:00AM * City of Hammond, PUC, The Center

June 23, 2009 * 10:00AM * Location TBD

July 21, 2009 * 10:00AM * Purdue Technology Center

August 25, 2009 * 10:00AM * Location TBD

Working Group/ Committee Meeting Dates:

May 14, 2009 * 8:30AM * Purdue Technology Center

June 11, 2009 * 8:30AM * Purdue Technology Center

July 9, 2009 * 8:30AM * Purdue Technology Center

August 13, 2009 * 8:30AM * Purdue Technology Center

For more information regarding the Board Meetings or Work Group/
Committee Meetings, contact Jillian Huber: jahuber@rda.in.gov

LMCP Coastal Advisory Board Meetings

June 15, 2009 * 6:15PM * 8:15PM CST * Porter County location TBA

* This is a public input meeting covering the 2010 Coastal Grant cycle

August 19, 2009 * 6:15PM-8:15PM CST * LaPorte County location TBA

BioBlitz

May 15 & 16, 2009 * 12:00PM - 12:00PM * Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The BioBlitz is part scientific endeavor, part festival and part outdoor classroom. It is a 24-hour event in which team of scientists, volunteers and community members join forces to find and identify as many local plants and animal species as possible.

* For more information regarding BioBlitz, including registering & volunteer opportunities, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz.html>

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The purpose of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program is to enhance the State's role in planning for and managing natural and cultural resources in the coastal region and to support partnerships between federal, state and local agencies and organizations.

Additional Information Regarding the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Upcoming Events can be found at:

www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Shorelines



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