

# INDIANA LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM



## PROJECT LEAD

City of Hobart

## YEAR

2011

## COUNTY

Lake

## PROJECT COST

\$22,920

(\$11,460 Lake Michigan Coastal  
Grant/\$11,460 Local Match)



## The Hobart Marsh Area Plan

Numerous organizations, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Hobart, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, NIPSCO, and Shirley Heinze Land Trust, own and manage conservation lands in the Hobart Marsh area. In order to align land management and development goals between the various organizations, the City of Hobart identified the need to develop a plan for this sub-area, known as the Hobart Marsh Area Plan.

The City secured a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program to create a comprehensive plan and implementation strategy.

A series of stakeholder meetings, a tour of planned wetland mitigation areas, and a three-day planning charrette were conducted. The Plan that evolved from this process focuses on expanding public access connections among the protected parcels owned by the public agencies and non-profit organizations to create an eco-tourism destination for locals to experience native flora and fauna of the region. These connections would be sensitive to the management goals of conservation organizations while at the same time, accessible to the public by improving bike trails and wayfinding signage. Land use and zoning changes were also proposed in the plan, and the City has since designated the Hobart Marsh area as a nature district.

The Plan includes a list of actionable items that stakeholders can take to achieve the Plan's vision, including developing recreational design standards for trails and amenities and further master planning for City-owned properties. Stakeholders continue to participate in an annual meeting, convened by the City, to discuss past progress and plans for the future.

For More Information:

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