Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program
2008 Funding Cycle Summaries

LAND ACQUISITION

Applicant: Lake County Parks and Recreation Department
Project Title: Gary Manufacturing MFG. LLC Acquisition at Oak Ridge Prairie
Project Type: Natural Area Preservation
Federal Request: $60,000/$94,600 **Local Share: $60,000/$94,600**

This project will acquire approximately 8.6 acres of oak savanna and wetland adjacent to the 690 acre Oak Ridge County Park. These 8.6 acres are adjacent to the park's north central property line. Habitat is that is found in the park can be found in this parcel of property. The land that is being acquired has been untouched by the company since they purchased the property. The site's hydrology and being wooded has kept them from doing anything with it.

LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

Applicant: Lake County Parks and Recreation Department
Project Title: Beaver Dam Wetland Restoration
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $ 97,500 **Local Share: $ 97,500**

The Beaver Dam wetland restoration project will restore hydrology to over 200 acres of wetlands. This project will use a series of water control structures, levees, and earthwork that will allow Lake County Parks the opportunity to impound water in three moist soil units in late winter/early spring, and fall/early winter. A water management plan was prepared to help with timing each year in how structures will be set to utilize precipitation events. Water held in the units will range in depths from a matter on inches to about 3 foot deep in the lower areas. The range of depths will allow the maximum number of species to use the restored wetlands. Ducks Unlimited has prepared plans for the restoration and will prepare specifications and bid documents to find a competent company to undertake this job. The site when opened as a county park will provide hiking, wildlife viewing, outdoor programming for all ages, hunting and fishing.

Applicant: Portage Parks Department
Project Title: Salt Creek Restoration Project
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $100,000 **Local Share: $100,740**

The City of Portage and the Portage Parks and Recreation Department are involved in an aggressive plan to develop and preserve several natural resources within the middle to northern section of the City of Portage. The City of Portage's North Side Plan, Congressman Visclosky's Marquette Plan and the Save the Dunes' Watershed Management Plan all emphasize the importance that is being given to the appropriate development of the Lake Michigan Coastal zone area. There are a number of environmental and societal factors that have combined to place increasing demands on the streams in Northwest Indiana, including the Salt Creek. The proposed Salt Creek Habitat Restoration Project will concentrate on stream and habitat restoration along a 1.5 mile portion of Salt Creek, from the southern boundary of Imagination Glen Park to the intersection of the Indiana Toll Road.

Portage Parks and Recreation Department will work with River Tenders and Northwest Indiana Steelheaders to implement this project. Both organizations have an extensive experience with projects that have addressed eliminating stream bank erosion, increasing creek flow, creating and improving fish habitat and providing appropriate access to streams and creeks. The project will concentrate on log jam removal, bank improvement strategies, introducing habitat improving structures (lunkers) and establishing proper and accessible access points at several locations. This project is designed to address an opportunity presented to the City of Portage to develop a beautiful natural area and provide for both active and passive outdoor recreation experiences to

residents and visitors to Portage, while restoring and improving the natural habitat of Salt Creek. A secondary benefit of this project will be extending a blueway corridor from the trail head in Imagination Glen Park through Salt Creek and the Little Calumet River with access to Lake Michigan and Portage's future Lake Front Park.

Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves
Project Title: Cressmoor Prairie Woody Reduction
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $15,000 **Local Share: $15,000**

At 38 acres in total size, Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve is the largest example in Indiana of rare mesic black soil prairie. A history of fire suppression, habitat fragmentation and hydrologic alterations has severely impacted this high-quality natural community. The primary and immediate threat to the continued health of this remnant natural area is succession and invasion by woody species: mainly dogwoods, honeysuckle, viburnum, and autumn olive.

The preserve requires a large-scale disturbance to re-set the vegetation structure to a sustainable state that can be easily maintained in the future with prescribed fires.

We propose to mechanically control brush (shrubs) and tree species throughout the prairie and to follow up with herbicide applications in the densest infestations. Contractors will be hired to mow brush and remove trees. Contractors will also be hired to make foliar herbicide applications to re-sprouts on 15 acres of the property. Mowing will serve as an effective fire surrogate in areas of less dense woody growth. This will allow sufficient control in the short term, while helping to preserve the rich insect community until a desirable and effective fire regime can be implemented across the property.

This project is expected to reduce the occurance of woody species in 15 acres by 95%.

Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves
Project Title: Calumet Prairie – Invasive Shrub Control
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $18,750 **Local Share: $18,750**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR), Division of Nature Preserves is interested in the active management and restoration of Calumet Prairie, located in Lake County, Indiana. This property is approximately 141 acres and it is comprised of wet sand prairie and dry-mesic sand prairie. Calumet Prairie provides habitat for state listed plant and animal species.

Numerous invasive woody plants occur at Calumet Prairie, including exotic bush honeysuckles (Lonicera spp.). Several of these species are aggressive and are capable of drastically altering the plant community in which they are found. The goal of this project is to significantly reduce the presence of invasive shrub species at Calumet Prairie within the treatment area. Although there are numerous invasive tree species within the treatment area, this project will not control them due to the desinsities of shrubs surrounding the trees.

The project will consist of one contract to mechanically mow and/or hand cut the woody shrub species, apply herbicide to the cut stump and also herbicide any woody resprouts. This restoration project involves approximately 15 acres at Calumet Prairie.

The project objective is to reduce the presence of targeted invasive shrub species within the treatment area. The restoration of this area will improve the overall biodiversity and habitat potential for the site and reduce the spread invasive shrubs into higher quality portions of the property. This restoration project will also improve efforts to install future fire lanes.

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves
Project Title: Pine Station – Clark Road Restoration
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $45,000 **Local Share: $45,000**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves is interested in the active management and restoration of Pine Station Nature Preserve, located in Lake

County, Indiana. This property is approximately 258 acres and it contains a mixture of globally rare dune and swale topography, sand-mined areas, two ponds and several hundred feet of frontage on the Grand Calumet River. Pine Station Nature Preserve provides habitat for numerous state listed plant and animal species and is comprised of sand savanna, sand prairie, wet prairie, sedge meadow, emergent marsh, and shrub swamp plant communities.

The goal of this project is to significantly reduce the presence of invasive woody plant species at Pine Station along N. Clark Road. Numerous invasive woody plants occur on the property. Several of these species are aggressive and are capable of drastically altering the plant community in which they are found This project will include the treatment of such vegetation through the cutting and removal of the woody species with chainsaws or brushcutters, applying herbicide to the cut stump and also herbidicing any woody resprouts . This restoration project involves approximately 10 acres at Pine Station Nature Preserve and it will target the area adjacent to N. Clark Road.

The project objective is to reduce the presence of targeted invasive woody plant speices within the treatment area. This project will consist of two contracts. One contract will focus on shurbs and small tree saplings. The second contract will focus on larger diameter trees. The restoration of this area will improve the overall biodiversity and habitat potential for the site and reduce the spread invasive shrubs and trees into previously restored areas of the property.

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves
Project Title: Prairie and Marsh Restoration, Norco Tract, Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $25,000 **Local Share: $25,000**

The grant will be targeted towards restoration of an 6.5 acre wetland and 8 acres of prairie on the recently acquired Norco tract at Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve. The goal is a 90% reduction in woody invasive species that threaten to dominate and shade out desired native herbaceous vegetation. It is anticipated that the work will be done by contract with a private vendor during the dormant growing season - Nov. 2008 - March ,2009 with a follow-up treatment in June of 2009.

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
Project Title: Indiana Dunes State park Biodiversity Restoration
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $7,200 **Local Share: $7,200**

Project is to accomplish implementation of the 2005-2010 natural resource management plan. Focus will be primarily on the eradication of herbaceous and woody invasive species such as oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculata), bush honeysuckles (Lonicera spp.), Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii), privet (Ligustrum spp.), and garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) per the NRMP. Other tasks will include those ID'd in the NRMP, such as; mapping invasive populations, progress measurement/documentation, and fire break construction for protection of infrastructure. Project will include two 90 day stewardship positions and materials such as hebicides/surfactants, and dyes.

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
Project Title: Noel's Prairie South Biodiversity Restoration
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $15,000 **Local Share: $15,000**

This project will restore 15 acres of a high quality remnant savanna in the western portion of IDSP, located near trail 3, commonly known as Noel's Prairie. Trees in the savanna were widely spaced when it was first described in 1987, but the canopy has effectively closed since that time due to fire suppression and the proliferation of sassafras. In 2007, the initial restoration of 7 acres of the savanna produced amazing results with an additional 38 species new to the original plant

list. This project will remove the invading sassafras and young oaks and restore the savanna to its early successional open canopy condition. The goal is to remove 100% of Sassafras cover and reduce the total canopy of oaks to less than 50%.

Applicant: Town of Merrillville Parks and Recreation Dept.
Project Title: Pruzin Nature Center Upland Forest Restoration Project
Project Type: Recreational Public Access Improvement
Federal Request: $30,000 **Local Share: $30,000**

The Town of Merrillville Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting $30,000 in Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) funds to restore approximately 5 acres of upland forest habitat at the Pruzin Community Park and Nature Center, located at 5750 Tyler Place, in Merrillville, IN. The Department will coordinate its restoration activities with the Lake County Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure the project is consistent with broader habitat restoration efforts in Lake County.

The Town of Merrillville Department of Parks and Recreation will make the facility available free-of-charge, daily from dawn until dusk. The Town will allow groups to reserve the outdoor classroom – suitable for special events and picnics – free-of–charge. The Department will utilize the proposed Pruzin Nature Center Upland Forest Restoration Project area for summer day camp and other recreational programming.

Applicant: City of Michigan City
Project Title: Trail Creek Forks
Project Type: Natural Area Restoration
Federal Request: $37,500 **Local Share: $40,300**

Project location is Route 20 at the Forks. Bank erosion is a continuing problem because there are no structures to contain it. Also, by constructing underwater lunkers the fish habitat benefits, the banks are lined with stone to stop erosion, and dead falls are dragged to the side. This helps to increase flow as well. Most of our labor is volunteers from various conservation groups and college students. This project will start and finish in two weekends, using up to 40-50 workers per day. Glacier stones (field stones) are used to ensure an armer bank and are used in critical areas. They are also used on top of lunker structures to hold in place, and will last forever. The use of glacier stone in this area gives this a natural look forever. The Indiana DNR recommended this type of stone

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Applicant: Portage Parks Department
Project Title: Portage Outdoor Science Program
Project Type: Comprehensive Education/Outreach
Federal Request: $50,000 **Local Share: $52,500**

Portage Parks and Recreation Department will partner with the Portage Township Schools to develop a K-12 outdoor science education curriculum. Our proposed project will be to develop a series of field trip-based lesson plans specifically gear for each of the thirteen different grades levels. The educational sessions will focus on five separate and diverse natural areas within Portage including a fen, a natural dune area on the Lake Michigan shoreline, an upland wooded 16 acre parcel, a black oak savanna and over three miles of Salt Creek, one of northwest Indiana's best steelhead fishing tributaries.

Each series of lesson plans will include classroom-based pre-fieldtrip instruction on a particular subject. Subject matter for the outdoor science curriculum will include environmental and conservation issues, preservation practices, habitat identification, wildlife biology, geology, botany, meteorology/water cycle and ecosystems. All materials will meet the Indiana Academic Standards as established by the Indiana Department of Education. The prosed grant project involves the research and development of lesson plans; the design and printing of Outdoor

Science Manuals for the 8 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and the highschool; the purchase of related supplies and/or science kits as support materials to the lesson plans and the hosting of an Outdoor Science Workshop for the science teachers within the Portage Township School system.

PLANNING / COORDINATION / MANAGEMENT

Applicant: City of Gary Parks and Recreation Dept.
Project Title: City of Gary Shoreline Management Plan
Project Type: Shoreline Management
Federal Request: $20,000 **Local Share: $20,000**

The City of Gary Parks Department has the responsibility to manage and maintain approximately 3 linear miles of Lake Michigan Shoreline located between U.S. Steel and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to the West and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore/West Beach to the East. In addition to uninterrupted sandy beach, area natural features include sand dunes, swales, oak savannas, and the Marquette Park Lagoons, headwaters of the Grand Calumet River. Three public beaches, Lake Street Beach, Marquette Park Beach, and Wells Street Beach, are accessible via city streets and have parking lots. The entire length of the beach is public and accessible to pedestrians. Where private residences have been constructed behind the foredunes, pedestrians access the beach on paths over or cut into the dunes. For decades, beach management by the Parks Dept. has consisted primarily of beach cleaning and efforts to control and redistribute blowing beach sand. The purpose of this request for an Indiana Coastal Grant is the provide funding for the development of a comprehensive shoreline management plan for Gary's beaches and associated natural areas.

The Gary Parks Department, Planning Department, and Environmental Affairs Department will involve and coordinate with the interested public, environmental organizations, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and the Indiana Dunes State Park to develop a plan that will provide a guide to protect and maintain shoreline resources while providing for public access, recreational uses, and public safety. The Gary Parks Department will hire a qualified consulting firm(s) to conduct the necessary tasks and assist with public involvement for the project. The tasks for the planning project will include: Identification and mapping of the proposed publicly-owned planning and management area; Review of relevant studies conducted on the identified area; Review of applicable Shoreline Management Plans and Ordinances; Assessment of existing conditions, uses, and management practices; Develop through a public process, a plan for the management, protection, maintenance, and where necessary, restoration, of the natural resources within the shoreline management area. The plan will also address public use, access, and safety in the management area. Model ordinances supporting Shoreline Management Plan implementation will be identified for adoption by the Gary Common Council. Costs of plan implementation will be projected and sources of funding will be identified. The completed plan will be incorporated into the Parks Department Comprehensive Plan.