

2014 Coastal Grant Project Descriptions



ACQUISITION

Beaver Dam Ditch and Pond Acquisition – City of Crown Point
LMCP Share – \$30,000; Applicant Share – \$30,000

The City of Crown Point intends to purchase approximately 31 acres of agricultural property along Main Beaver Dam Ditch to develop the Beaver Dam Ditch and Pond Nature Park. The property is adjacent to the City's commercial corridor along Broadway/IN-53. While the subsequent development project has not yet been designed, the project concept includes construction of a 17-acre pond that will support aquatic life, provide recreational opportunities, protect downstream water quality, and perform storm water management functions. The nature park will implement green infrastructure and community recreation preferences recommended by the Beaver Dam Ditch and Pond Natural Habitat Restoration Planning Project. The City intends to restore natural shoreline, wetland, sedge meadow, prairie, and upland habitat areas at the park. The project concept design also includes shoreline fishing, paddle-powered boating, an outdoor classroom for interpretive programming, a shoreline dock, and a trail loop.

LOW-COST CONSTRUCTION

Deep River Access – City of Hobart Sanitary / Storm Water District
LMCP Share - \$100,000; Applicant Share - \$100,000

The Deep River Access Project will provide access to Deep River through the construction of an ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch system. The launch system would provide public access for recreational use of the river by kayakers and canoeists. Several examples of storm water best management practices, such as rain gardens and bioswales, will also be installed at this site, thereby treating storm water runoff and improving the water quality of Deep River. Informational signage regarding the storm water BMPs will be provided and installed by the City of Hobart.

Wabash Street Rain Garden Bioswale – City of Michigan City
LMCP Share - \$92,000; Applicant Share - \$92,000

The purpose of the "Wabash Street Rain Garden / Bioswale Project" is to incorporate green infrastructure, including urban rain gardens, bioswales, and native plantings, with the on-going Downtown streetscape improvements, as recommended in various Michigan City Plans. Approximately eight urban rain gardens will be the result, with a total approximate area of 2000 square feet. The bioswale area will provide approximately 5000 square feet, and around 55 native trees will be installed. Informational signs will be provided to educate the general public on the benefits of urban rain gardens.

Oak Savanna Restoration at Woodland Park - City of Portage Parks and Recreation
LMCP Share - \$10,000; Applicant Share - \$10,000

Woodland Park is a 53 acre park located in Portage, Indiana that houses the Woodland Park Community Center, Woodland Park Preschool, picnic shelters, playgrounds, trails and a dog park. Nearly half the

park is wooded, and contains remnants of oak savanna and mesic sand prairie. Portage Parks proposes to complete a restoration plan update, and create appropriate conservation targets and goals for the site. The intent is to implement at least one rotation of mechanical oak savanna restoration, invasive plant control with herbicides, and a prescribed fire, with some subsequent follow up treatments. The creation of a maintenance management plan that would be written for a park maintenance crew is also included in this project. For the purposes of this project, Portage Parks will focus on the north side of the park only, approximately 23 acres.

Burns Harbor Community Rain Garden – Town of Burns Harbor
LMCP Share - \$15,000; Applicant Share - \$15,000

The Burns Harbor Community Rain Garden Project will provide a functional stormwater management demonstration project using green infrastructure that educates the community about the importance of stormwater management, advances the Town's "green" initiative, improves the aesthetics of the Town Hall property, and provides real stormwater runoff treatment benefits. This project would be an educational demonstration project focusing on rain gardens, bioswales, and native dune plantings as storm water runoff control and treatment. The project will be located on an area of the property at the town complex, which has high community visibility, which is less than 1000 feet from the Little Calumet River. The Town of Burns Harbor will use the project to educate the community on the goals of the soon-to-be-implemented MS4 program, and how each one of us can improve the quality of area waterways.

Restoration of Clubhouse Dune, Unit #4 – Town of Dune Acres
LMCP Share - \$15,000; Applicant Share - \$15,000

The purpose of the project, "Restoration of Dune Acres Clubhouse Dune, Unit #4 - East-Facing Slope," is to restore two acres of a degraded black oak (sand) savanna by reducing the tree canopy, eradicating invasive plant species, and re-establishing native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. Currently, the canopy cover is nearly 100%, while the herbaceous layer cover is estimated to be less than 20%. The project goals include the increase of biodiversity and habitat and to control erosion on the sandy dune slopes. Specific benchmarks for success include a 40-50% reduction of tree canopy; 90% reduction in invasive plant species coverage; >50% coverage of herbaceous plants two years after restoration; and >75% coverage of herbaceous plants five years post-restoration.

PLANNING/COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

Developing an Indiana Dunes Ecosystem Natural Resource Protection Plan – Save the Dunes
LMCP Share - \$21,746; Applicant Share - \$21,746

Save the Dunes proposes to gather partners to help advance an Indiana Dunes Ecosystem Natural Resource Protection Plan. Through the creation of an Indiana Dunes Ecosystem Natural Resource Protection Plan, conservation priorities and pressing threats can be incorporated into a singular plan that will benefit the dunes system as a whole while assisting land managers with their agency-specific plans and projects. While plans to address these threats and protect the health and biodiversity of dunes sites exist within each agency, they do not address the system as a whole. The Plan would be based on input from land managers and scientists with expertise about the dunes ecosystem. It would identify resource protection targets, threats, and steps to address these in a highly effective way for the

entire system. It would also synthesize and streamline land management approaches for various organizations and identify opportunities for increased communication, equipment sharing, and volunteer help.

Certification of Corporate Programs for Invasive Species – Wildlife Habitat Council

LMCP Share - \$40,107 Applicant Share - \$40,107

Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) will develop a series of actions corporate partners can take for the Early Detection and Rapid Response of Invasive Species (ED&RR). This will achieve an industry-wide approach and assure that the best management practices are integrated into business plans and the best sustained outcomes are achieved and translated into industry actions for control and eradication. WHC will convene a task force of experts on Coastal Zone invasive species to research and disseminate best practices, translate imperatives into local actions, test models and develop resources for industries and corporations in the region. This work will result in a series of actions that will lead to an invasive species track within WHC's certification program that provides an objective third party valuation of conservation and enhancement activities on corporate lands and aligns these initiatives between corporations for a regional coordination of efforts and best practices.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Mighty Acorns Program in Northwestern Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Zone – Dunes Learning Center

LMCP Share - \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The Mighty Acorns Program will enable more than 2000 third- through sixth- graders to participate in three study trip experiences during the school year, where they will restore native habitats, study ecology through hands-on activities, and explore their natural surroundings. Participants experience the biodiversity of local prairies, dunes, forests, and wetlands. They will also learn about critical conservation issues, such as invasive species, water pollution, habitat loss, and more. Over the course of years, students monitor and witness the impact of their efforts. Long-term involvement with stewardship activities helps students recognize that they can have a positive impact on their communities and empowers them to be leaders.

Tipping Points and Indicators – Purdue University - Illinois / Indiana Sea Grant

LMCP Share - \$17,915; Applicant Share - \$17,915

Tipping Points and Indicators is a new Great Lakes Research and Extension Program comprised of a web-based, data driven decision support system (DSS) and facilitated community visioning and action planning process designed to empower land use planners, natural resource managers, and watershed stakeholder groups to identify and mitigate land use and climate impacts, thereby sustaining Great Lakes communities and ecosystems. The Tipping Points and Indicators Research and Extension Program is designed to empower land use planners, natural resource managers, and watershed stakeholder groups to identify and mitigate land use and climate impacts, thereby sustaining Great Lakes communities and ecosystems. The facilitation process results in an action plan that includes an overview of the current community status, whether the community is nearing or exceeding Great Lakes tipping

points, and provides customized education strategies, example policies, and sample ordinances to improve current conditions.

Camp Quercus 2015 – Taltree Arboretum and Gardens

LMCP Share - \$49,991; Applicant Share - \$49,991

Camp Quercus provides hands-on environmental learning experiences, focused on 21st Century learning through pre-formed curriculum designed by camp staff during the spring planning months. The experiences are focused on how we can help under-served children become more successfully involved in their communities in a positive way. This positive experience will be developed with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and math in a camp setting where the campers can gain new skills in a fun and safe environment.

Bringing History to Life – Michigan City Area Schools

LMCP Share - \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

Krueger Middle School students are developing a Living Indiana History experience for district fourth grade students. Elementary students will experience life in Indiana during “Pioneer Days”. Leadership opportunities for KMS students and first-hand learning about explorers, leaders, and pioneers who made up the original Hoosiers will be provided for all who participate.

The Living History Museum/Pioneer Days is a one-of-a-kind experience for students within the district. Not only is it KMS student-run, but it involves elementary students from across the district. This project brings history to life, enabling students’ leadership skills to shine and giving them the opportunity to act as responsible role-models toward younger students within their community. Letters will be sent back and forth throughout the school year between the classes to build a relationship before the students even step foot onto Krueger’s land.

Applied Research

Survey for Early Detection and Rapid Response of Invasive Species - Indiana State University

LMCP Share - \$49,970; Applicant Share - \$49,970

The purpose of “A Comprehensive Survey for Early Detection and Response of Invasive Species in Indiana’s Lake Michigan tributaries” is to implement the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force monitoring requirement for early detection and reporting of invasive aquatic species in Lake Michigan to determine the needed frequency of monitoring and reporting of new species. This project will provide early detection and rapid response reporting for invasive species within the entire northwest Indiana Lake Michigan basin. Stratified, random sampling at 150 tributary locations within the Lake Michigan basin of northern Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties will be sampled for invasive fish and crayfish.