

Prophetstown State Park Interpretive Master Plan 2004

(revised 2013)



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Introduction

As a new state park, Prophetstown State Park is in a unique situation. There is the opportunity to start fresh with no precedents. The park can be developed to meet the interpretive theme. Trails can be designed to fit the story. The interpretive center can be designed to function for that specific purpose.

There are also constraints. The park is still developing. Land acquisition is in progress, initial designs have been evaluated and altered.

This interpretive plan makes recommendations for the current conditions (land ownership, trails and staff). It also includes a second phase that assumes land ownership as it appears in the original master plan.

Interpretive planning will need to respond as the park evolves. Interpretation needs to be in the forefront when new land is acquired, new trails are planned and new sites identified. Interpretive efforts will be far more successful if incorporated during the initial planning stages and implemented with an eye to the future.

2013 Plan Update

As the park's 10th anniversary approaches, an update will address:

- 1. Completed recommendations*
- 2. Expansion of park acreage*
- 3. Interpreting the Native American story. In 2012, the opportunity to interpret the Native American story of Prophetstown was moved from the non-profit Museum at Prophetstown (now the Farm at Prophetstown) to the State Park. A separate plan insert within this document will address messages and recommendations related to Native American interpretation.*

Overview of Resources

Geology

Bedrock

The bedrock underlying Prophetstown State Park (PSP) is found 200 to 450 feet below glacial deposits. The uppermost bedrock layer consists of Cambrian and Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks, formed 290 to 570 million years ago. They are shale, limestone and dolomite. The sedimentary layer is 5500 feet thick. Below this layer are igneous and metamorphic rocks that are 1.2 billion years old. They have been identified from only a few drill sites. These older rocks are largely granite, but also include basalt, marble, schist and gneiss.

Glaciation

Glaciers advanced into Indiana throughout the Ice Age. The oldest glacial activity recorded in Indiana occurred roughly 2 million years ago. Continued research suggests that other older glaciers, long obliterated, may have been in Indiana.

The Wisconsin glacial advance is the most recent glacial advance and therefore has the easiest landscape record to read. The furthest extent of the Wisconsin covered the northern 2/3 of Indiana, roughly 21,000 years ago. The ice advanced south from two locations: the Lake Michigan basin in the northwest and the Huron-Erie basin in the northeast. These two ice lobes alternately occupied north-central Indiana (including PSP), leaving complex deposits. These deposits consist of sand and gravel carried from the Canadian Shield. Of interest is that the glacial deposits are made up of the same types of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks found in Indiana's ancient bedrock.

Teays River

Prior to the Ice Age, the major river draining Indiana was the Teays River. The Teays originated in North Carolina and Virginia and flowed across W. Virginia and Ohio before curving southwestward across Indiana and into Illinois. The Teays drained roughly half of Indiana. When glaciers entered the Teays River, the river valley was filled with tons of glacial debris. As the glaciers receded, a new river path was formed by the meltwater-the Wabash River. The young Wabash roughly acquired the drainage area that had formerly belonged to the Teays.

The Teays Valley and its tributaries remain buried and unobservable. At two points, the Wabash Valley follows the Teays Valley. One stretch is from Lafayette to Delphi, the second in the vicinity of Peru, Indiana. At these points, there is a notable widening of the Wabash Valley.

Wabash River

In central Indiana, the glaciers left behind the physiographic unit known as the Tipton Till Plain. Although the Tipton Till plain has evidence of end moraines, most of them are low. For the most part, the area is flat.

As the glaciers receded, meltwater rushed from the melting edges, forming the rivers and drainage systems we now have. The Wabash River cut a large valley, in some places cutting through to the bedrock. Today, the Wabash River Valley is considerably wider than the river itself. A much larger Wabash River once carried a huge volume of meltwater. Today, the 475-mile-long Wabash drains 2/3 of Indiana, having a 33,100 square mile watershed.

"It is a beautiful and valuable stream - the water generally perfectly clear & transparent - exhibiting a clean gravelly bottom. It abounds with Fish of various kinds - Bass, Pike, Perch, Catfish" - Caleb Lowmes, description of the Wabash River, Travel Accounts of Indiana in 1815.

Terraces

Prophetstown State Park is a series of terraces, moving away from the Wabash River. The first terrace is the floodplain bordering the river. This is followed by a mid-terrace, 15-40' above the floodplain. The upland terrace makes up the highest area of the park.



View of the terraces formed by glacial meltwater.

Wabash Torrent

As the glaciers retreated, large amounts of water were trapped by a moraine near Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The resulting lake (glacial Lake Maumee) breached the moraine about 14,000 years ago. A massive amount of water roared down the Wabash and rushed through the PSP area. Up to 50 feet of water covered most, if not all, of PSP. The streamlined contour of PSP may have resulted from the Wabash Torrent. The main channel of the torrent is the present Wabash River channel. A second channel may have created the escarpment along the north side of the park.

Natural Communities

The PSP area represented the contact point between the eastern deciduous forest and the western prairie. Early surveys note a mixture of prairie, forest and wetlands. These broader communities will be addressed as well as specific communities (seeps, fens and savannas).

Prairie

A 1718 report from Fort Ouiatenon states, "Nothing is visible to the eye but prairies full of buffaloes."

Prairie (meaning *meadow* in French) is characterized by grasses and wildflowers rather than trees and shrubs. The plants and animals of the prairie have adapted to harsh sun and dry conditions. They have also adapted to the presence of fire.

The North American prairie covered a triangular-shaped area extending from a point in Canada to a second point in Texas following the Rocky Mountains. The third point of the triangle was in north-central Indiana. Studies show that this third point extended further east during the drier climate of 4000 years ago (known as the xerothermic stage). Prairie remnants from this time can be found far into Ohio.

Fire, both from human and natural causes, kept the prairie open by removing woody species. Native Americans routinely started fires on the prairie to drive game. Normally grasses could grow over six feet in height, making it easy to get lost. Fires kept trails open for travel.

At the time of European settlement, thirteen percent (about 2 million acres) of Indiana was prairie. Prairie soils, which were once considered poor because no trees could grow on them, proved to be among the most productive soils on earth. In 1840, John Deere invented the chilled steel moldboard for the breaking plow. This allowed settlers to break the prairie soil and its incredible root system.



Big bluestem in the restored prairie.

Today, Prophetstown State Park has restored hundreds of acres back to prairie. Additionally, the

park's nursery creates a supply of seeds for further restoration and its greenhouse is used to grow individual plants in special "plug" containers for the prairie project.

Forest

Stanley Coulter's 1891 *The Forest Trees of Indiana* states, "forty-two kinds of trees in the Wabash Valley attained a height above 100 feet." The eastern deciduous forest extended from the East Coast to Indiana where it gave way to the prairie of the central United States. In the Lafayette area, historical vegetation records show oak-hickory forest north of the Wabash and beech-maple south of the Wabash. The rich forest provided an abundance of resources for Native Americans and European settlers: game, timber and nuts. David Thomas wrote that nuts and hazelnuts were so profuse along the Wabash that farmers' hogs could forage through the winter without the need for feed.

At Prophetstown, trees mentioned in survey records include: sugar maple, walnut, oak and beech. Most of the forests of Indiana, including PSP, were cleared to make way for agriculture. Today, with the exception of woodlots, most of the wooded areas are found along the slopes leading to the Wabash River and the floodplain.

Wetlands

Pre-settlement Indiana included 5.6 million acres of wetlands. The bulk of Indiana's wetlands were in the northwest quarter of the state. PSP was located on the southeast corner of the region. Early settlers viewed wetlands as unhealthy, perceiving the air as bad. Indeed, malaria comes from the Italian *mala aria*, "bad air". Malaria was so prevalent along the river, that the illness was referred to as the Wabash Shakes.

The wetlands of northwest Indiana were an obstacle to agriculture. Early settlers dug ditches by hand with shovels or oxen-drawn slip scoops. Natural drainages were channelized for faster removal of water. By the mid-1800s, dredging machines were successful in speeding water removal from the fields. In addition to ditches, drainage tile was laid to speed water removal. By 1882, Indiana farmers had installed 30,000 miles of clay drainage tile. Indiana's wetlands were reduced to only 800,000 acres.

By definition, a wetland must contain: the presence of water, wetland soil types and specific plants adapted to these conditions. Several areas within the PSP property meet these criteria. The largest wetland area is found along the northwest boundary where Burnett and Harrison Creeks meet. A wet successional field was the historic Battleground Marsh. It was this marsh that separated Prophetstown from Harrison's encampment and across which the Native Americans retreated following the battle. Other wetlands occur in the floodplain near the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers.

Much of the former agricultural land within PSP was tilled. Resource management plans have set objectives to remove tile and restore the original hydrology.



Irises in the fen.

Fen

A fen is an alkaline groundwater-fed wetland. Due to an impervious layer, groundwater is trapped and flows out where the layer is exposed to the surface. The non-acidic groundwater creates an environment for specific wetland plants. The prairie fen community at PSP is located along wetlands adjacent to Harrison Creek. The fen is significant enough to be eligible for State Nature Preserve designation.

Seeps

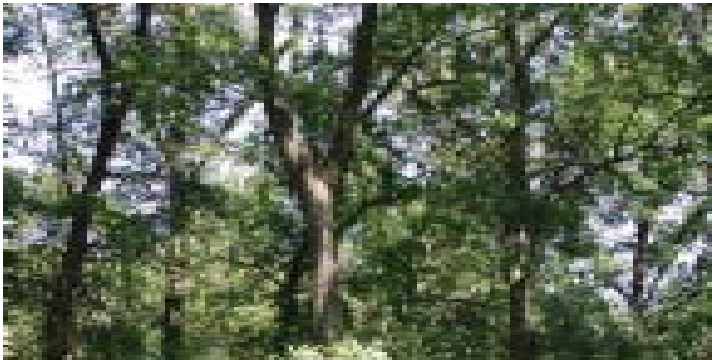
Seeps are an unusual community best represented in the Tipton Till Plain. They are

typically found at the base of moraines or terraces associated with large drainages. Water seeps from the base of the slope and spreads across the soil. The cold, slightly alkaline water creates a unique community. Seeps at PSP are found along the northwest slopes of the park.

Savanna

Savannas, also called open oak woodlands, occur along the contact point between forest and prairie. Their historic range was a band extending from Minnesota to Texas, touching the northwest Indiana. Savannas combine parts of both forest and prairie ecosystems, including scattered oak trees and a ground cover of grasses and flowers. Fire was crucial to maintaining savannas.

European settlers suppressed fires, cleared oaks for plowing and grazed the understory. Never covering a large historic area, savanna is now one of the most threatened ecosystems in the United States.



The savanna/open oak woodland.

In PSP, a sand savanna is located on a bluff west of the Museum at Prophetstown property. Although farmed and pastured, it supports a diversity of native plant species.

Endangered, Rare, and Threatened Flora and Fauna

Eight listed animal species and fourteen listed plant species have been identified within PSP. River otters and some bird species may use the Wabash River as a corridor rather than being resident species. The listed plants are found within the remnant natural communities. See Appendix for list of ERT species.



Two plants found in the fen. Obedience plant (Physostegia virginiana), above and Swamp thistle (Cirsium muticum), at right. Swamp thistle is the host plant for the metalmark skipper butterfly (Calephelis muticum), a State Threatened species.

Cultural Resources

Native American Settlement

People have lived in the Wabash River Valley since shortly after the glaciers receded (10,000 years ago). Large animals including mammoths and mastodons roamed across the new landscape. Nomadic hunters followed them, using the meat, bones and hides that the animals provided. Early people such as the Archaic hunters were nomadic and used the rivers such as the Wabash as travel corridors and sources of fish and mussels.

The tribes present when fur traders arrived were recent arrivals themselves. Many had been previously displaced by European settlement to the east and north. Tribes present in Indiana included: Shawnees, Delawares, Miamis, Potawatomis, Weas, Piankishaws and Wyandots.

In the region, the site of Kethtippecanunk is recorded. Kethtippecanunk was an early historic Native American occupation, recorded as early as the 1730s. By the late 18th century, it had become a mixed Native American and French occupation inhabited by members of Miami groups, Potawatomis, and Euroamericans such as French traders. It was recorded as a "town" with substantial structures laid out in a predominately Euroamerican settlement style, and was destroyed by militia in 1791.

2013 Update

A recent land acquisition contains five mounds. Further archaeological study is needed to identify the time period and purpose of the mounds (burial or ceremonial).

Prophetstown and the Battle of Tippecanoe

Feeling increased pressure from European settlers, the Shawnee leader Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa (The Prophet) moved their warriors and followers from Ohio to the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers. There, in 1808, they founded Prophetstown.

Tecumseh hoped that by creating a confederacy of several tribes, he could halt the advance of the settlers. The Prophet assisted this effort by preaching Indian renewal and cultural purity. He discouraged the use of alcohol and adopting the settler's ways.



The Tippecanoe River winds between wooded banks.

Tecumseh's travels took him to New York, Canada, Arkansas, Minnesota and perhaps as far south as Florida. He visited tribes and persuaded them to abandon their tribal animosities to fight the larger enemy. He encouraged tribes to come to Prophetstown, to stand their ground and resist. Tecumseh hoped that their large numbers would be enough to dissuade the advance of settlement. By 1808, warriors from other tribes were congregating at Prophetstown.

William Henry Harrison, then governor of the Indiana Territory, was aware of the increased Native American presence at Prophetstown. Harrison had a healthy respect for Tecumseh as a statesman and described him as, "*the Moses of the family . . . a bold, active sensible man daring in the extreme and capable of any undertaking.*" Concerned by Tecumseh's growing confederation, in November of 1811 (while Tecumseh was gone), Harrison moved troops to within ½-mile of Prophetstown. The Prophet, fearing an attack, initiated a surprise attack on Harrison's encampment. In the early morning darkness of November 11, warriors surrounded Harrison's men. An alert sentry sounded the alarm and the battle began. Heavy losses occurred on both sides, but in the end the warriors pulled back and escaped to Prophetstown. The residents of Prophetstown fled. Later that day, Harrison's troops burned Prophetstown. The largest Native American confederation ever to come together in the North American continent was broken.

European Settlement

In 1800, Indiana was a territory with its capital in Vincennes. The United States had only 16 states. The land west of the Mississippi belonged to France. Settlers moved across the Ohio River from Southern states. Central and northern Indiana remained unsettled due to poor access and the Native American presence.

Following the Battle of Tippecanoe and the fall of Tecumseh's confederation, the floodgates of settlement opened. Between 1810 and 1820, Indiana's population increased by 455%. Indiana's statehood in 1816 and improvements in transportation allowed settlement of the Wabash Valley. Many settlers entered from the east as well as continuing from the south.

One of the first white persons to permanently settle in Tippecanoe County was William Burnett, a French fur trader. He established a trading post on the Wabash River, three miles northeast of Battleground. He married Kaudema, the daughter of a Potawatomi Chief.

A portion of Burnett's Reserve is within the property. Burnett's Reserve extends north along the Wabash beginning at the mouth of the Tippecanoe River. The Reserve was given to the children to William Burnett as part of the 1818 Treaty of St. Mary.

Another early settler was John Henry Davis, a trader who married Burnett's daughter, Nancy. It is thought that Davis built the first log cabin in Tippecanoe Township. It was built around 1823 on the Wabash.

The Wabash River was the trade route for early farmers. In the early 1800s, three hundred flatboats a year left the Wabash for New Orleans where ships would carry goods to the East Coast. Products included flour, beef, pork, hides, lard, tallow, whiskey and livestock. Most boatmen walked from New Orleans back to their Indiana farms. After 1816, those with more money returned by steamboat.

The Indiana Improvement Act of 1836 spurred the growth of the Tippecanoe County region. It was this act that approved the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal from Lafayette to Toledo, Ohio. The canal permitted goods to be transported directly to the east coast rather than having to go through New Orleans. Additionally the act provided for road improvements and railroads. Unfortunately, due to the financial panic and depression of 1839, none of the projects were completed.

In the mid-1800s, river towns including Lafayette became centers for pork packing. Converting corn to pork was more lucrative than selling the corn itself. Farmers from outlying areas drove their hogs to Lafayette for slaughter and packing. The meat was then shipped down the Wabash to other markets. With the advent of the railroads, this industry increased.

Two inventions dramatically increased the amount of land available for farming. The chilled iron plow could slice through the tough prairie sod. The dredging machine removed water from unusable land. These inventions were very important to northwestern Indiana (including the Prophetstown region) as it was an area dominated by wetlands and prairie. By the 1870s, this last uncultivated area of Indiana was being rapidly converted to agriculture.

Labor-saving equipment, fertilizers and new breeds of livestock create a surplus farming economy. By the early 1900s, Purdue University had established the agriculture extension and placed agents throughout the state. No longer were farmers isolated individuals. They were part of a network of the latest information and technology.

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Audiences

Park Users

Campers

By having campgrounds, Prophetstown State Park has a resident audience staying overnight in the park. In addition to the social experience of a camping trip, these visitors will have the time to take advantage of what the park has to offer. They will be looking for something to do. It will be important to provide a variety of program topics and methods (hikes, talks, exhibits, signs).

During the summer, campers are usually families with children. In the off season, there will be a higher proportion of retirees. Program approaches should reflect different age groups.

Day Users

In addition to campers, day users come to the park for picnics and family reunions. Day users, particularly those renting shelters, are there for social occasions and have only a short time in the park. Roving interpretation may be the best approach for this group.

Trail Users

Trails at PSP link with larger regional trails such as the Wabash Heritage Trail. While trail users may partake of the park amenities, some may be passing through on their way to a further destination. Wayside signs at scenic points (with a bench) are the most effective, less formal interpretive approach.

2013 Addendum

Aquatic Park Users

The addition of the new aquatic park will draw day users from around the region. It will increase attendance in the campgrounds and by organized groups. It is anticipated that new visitors will return to experience the park's trails, programs and other amenities.

School Groups

State Parks and Reservoirs has a rich legacy of conducting interpretive programs for students. This includes both field trips in the park and outreach in area schools.

Establishing a relationship with local educators will be key to starting a school program. Teachers have limited transportation and a limited number of field trips allowed each year. Many teachers have taken the same field trip for years. They have a relationship with the staff at that site, have fit the experience with their classroom teaching and know that the trip will be a success. Convincing teachers to try a new field trip will not happen immediately. It is recommended that park staff meet with teachers and discuss their needs both in terms of educational objectives and logistics (picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, bus parking). It is also recommended that outreach programs be offered in the schools at least initially. After field trips become more popular and an interpretive center is built, outreach programs will be harder to justify due to travel time and having staff off the park. Park staff may want to then shift focus to field trips and away from outreach.

Other Audiences

Organizations and special interest groups can be tapped. These would include scouts, religious organizations and others. The park's proximity to Purdue University offers additional opportunities. As the land grant university, Purdue houses the Extension Service. Extension sponsors 4-H and Master Gardeners. These are good groups for programs as well as volunteers. The Indiana Native Plant Society may also offer audiences, volunteers and speakers.

Regional Agencies Offering Interpretation

Several regional agencies and organizations offer interpretation. Of special importance is the presence of the Museum at Prophetstown (MaP) within the park property. MaP is a non-profit living history site. This creates a unique situation for PSP.

There are numerous opportunities for collaborative interpretive programming and partnerships. It requires that the park keep abreast of what other agencies are doing so as to avoid duplication or competition. Good communication lines will be very important to the success of joint efforts.

In an effort to create an atmosphere of cooperation, joint meetings were conducted between the IDNR and the Museum at Prophetstown. Additionally, four other regional agencies were interviewed regarding what services they offer. Their input regarding communication and collaborative efforts follows.

Museum at Prophetstown

Mission

Museum at Prophetstown (MaP) is *"dedicated to preserving and interpreting Woodland Native American and Wabash Valley agricultural history, culture, and traditions; to restoring examples of Indiana's prairie and savanna ecosystems; and to sharing these treasures through educational experiences and cultural programs."*

2013 Addendum

The Museum at Prophetstown is now the Farm at Prophetstown. Interpreting the Woodland Native American story is no longer within their mission, but is now under the auspices of Prophetstown State Park.



The 1920s farm at the Museum at Prophetstown

Site

Facilities include a 1920s farm, an early 1800s Woodland Native American village and acres of restored prairie. There are plans to build the Kampen Eagle Wing Center, dedicated to interpreting the regional Native American heritage, the prairie and the farm.

Interpretive Programs

Program efforts center on the farm, Woodland Indian lifestyle and prairie. Scheduled school programs and publicized public programs make up the bulk of their audiences. It is anticipated that once the park opens, there will be an increase in casual visitation to the site.

Demonstrations and hands-on activities are an emphasis. Other types of programs are lecture series, concerts and clubs. A non-profit organization, MaP is supported in part by admission and program fees.

Discussion and Recommendations

Two joint meetings were conducted between the IDNR and MaP. Several logistical issues were discussed regarding promoting programs, fees, avoiding duplication and visitor orientation. The recommendations coming from the meetings:

1. The interpretive emphasis for Prophetstown State Park will be on natural history. The emphasis for MaP will be cultural interpretation.
2. Program brochures for schools and public program schedules will be produced jointly.
3. A specific week day will be designated for joint school programs.
4. The MaP trolley will offer regularly scheduled trips to points within MaP and the State Park.
5. Joint school program fees will initially be \$4.00/student. Three dollars will go to MaP and \$1.00 to the State Park.
6. All directional signs will include MaP.
7. The Prophetstown State Park Map will include an enlarged inset of the MaP site. Additionally, MaPs map will include an inset that shows the entire park and will discuss briefly the relationship between MaP and the State Park.

Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Mission

The mission of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) is: *enriching the lives of residents and visitors by collecting, preserving and interpreting our unique and exciting history.*

Sites

The TCHA manages the Fowler House (which serves as the County Museum), Fort Ouiatenon and the Battlefield Museum. The Battlefield and Fort Ouiatenon are owned by the Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department, but the museum and facilities are leased by TCHA. In addition to these facilities, TCHA manages a collection library and prepares exhibits for public areas.

Interpretive Programs

TCHA interprets primarily European history (1700 to present), French Colonial history and Native People. They are particularly interested in archaeological research that builds community relations. Examples of this are an excavation at Fort Ouiatenon using high school students. TCHA also plans to conduct a professional excavation of the Battlefield in 2011 as part of the battle's bicentennial. In addition to looking for artifacts, the archaeologists want to reconstruct the battle and how it happened.

The Fowler House Museum attracts 12-15,000 students per year with a special emphasis on 4th grade Indiana history. Exhibits at the museum follow the concept "Century on the Wabash". The Battlefield Museum focuses on Native American and European life and perspectives in 1811, and the battle itself.

The Feast of the Hunters Moon, held every fall at Fort Ouiatenon is an enormous event drawing tens of thousands of participants and visitors. The event reenacts the 1717-1791 French colonial period.

Additionally, TCHA works closely with universities and museums in coordinating artifacts and research.

Discussion and Recommendations

The TCHA director, Kevin O'Brien, is very amenable to cooperative ventures and states, "The success of Prophetstown is a boon for everybody." Kevin works directly with Native People in the area. He would like to coordinate with Prophetstown State Park on any Native American interpretation to ensure accuracy.

Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department

Agency

The Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department (TCPR) serves the county area that includes Prophetstown State Park.

Sites

TCPR has twelve park properties and four community centers. Additionally they staff and manage the Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog (under W. Lafayette Parks and Recreation) and host community events.

Interpretive Programs

A full-time interpreter has an office in Battle Ground. Her office includes a group area and meeting room. The facility has a visitation of about 15,000/year. The Lilly Nature Center has a visitation of about 3,000/year.

Types of programs offered by TCPR include:

schools (on site and in classroom)

public programs

cooperative programs (ex: Master Gardeners)

teacher workshops (Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, etc.)

field days with Purdue

day camps

Currently TCPR offers programs at no charge. The current administration believes that as the department is tax supported, these services should be free. Out-of-county residents are also free. The opportunity to donate is available (.50/student). Rentals (such as picnic shelters) have a fee.

Discussion and Recommendations

The interpreter would like to maintain communication as to the types of program offerings by each agency. There is a need to be aware of what the other is doing. She sees her audience and programs as being more outreach and community-based than the state park's programs. Each could offer the same type of program, but for different audiences. The state park would target the audience visiting and camping at the park.

School Programs

Following the national trend there is pressure within the schools to do fewer field trips. Many schools are unable to afford more than one trip a year. As a result, schools are very choosy about field trips.

Recommendations include:

1. "Key in on your own site".
2. There is a need for more wetland education in the community.
3. Interpreters at the state park are encouraged to contact the TCPR interpreter for collaboration and networking. Make use of her knowledge of people resources in the area.
4. Offer tours of the state park prior to opening to build an advocacy early.

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Mission

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC), representing the Wabash River Heritage Corridor, shall protect and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and encourage sustainable development of the corridor.

This will be accomplished by stimulating public interest, encouraging the exchange of information, and supporting the establishment of common goals and cooperative actions of

people and communities within the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

Goals

- To promote the improvement of the natural environment of the corridor.
- To promote the improvement of recreational opportunities in the corridor.
- To increase public awareness of the corridor as a whole.
- To encourage that recreational areas and trails are acquired and developed in the corridor without the use of eminent domain.
- To promote the development of a better environmental ethic in the citizens and communities of the corridor.
- To promote better cooperation between all of the groups and individuals with an interest in the corridor.

Discussion

Related to Prophetstown State Park, the WRHCC is interested in access from the Wabash corridor. This includes linking walking and biking trails, canoe access and access to campgrounds from the river. The logistics of park fees for those accessing the park from the river or corridor trails needs to be discussed.

Lafayette West Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Lafayette-West Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau (LWLCVB) promotes the region for business and recreation. In addition to their web site LWLCVB oversees the production of publications and serves as a liaison for the community.

Discussion

The bulk of the discussion centered on the publications generated from their office, their deadlines for information, etc.

Publications

1. The *Recreation Guide* is updated when supplies run out.
2. The *Events Guide* is distributed each January. Information is needed by the proceeding November.
3. In spring they need advertising for their *fall advertising*. Cooperative promotion possibilities were discussed. The State would need to contribute financially to such efforts.
4. There is also a bike and hiking trail guide that could incorporate trails at Prophetstown State Park.
5. There are four commercial campgrounds in the county, plus the Tippecanoe County Parks Dept. has recently opened a campground (Ross Hills). Prophetstown should also be included in the *campground publication*.

Interpretive Theme

The landscape of Prophetstown State Park is being formed by ice, water, fire and humans.

Subthemes:

1. For thousands of years, humans have lived with and altered the landscape

Objectives:

- A. Visitors will know the reasons **Native Americans** used **fire** to maintain the landscape.
- B. Visitors will understand the changes made to the landscape as it was converted for **agricultural purposes** (draining, clearing and fire suppression).
- C. Visitors will identify **management efforts** in restoring Prophetstown State Park to its pre-settlement landscape.

2. Glaciers covered the bedrock, altered pre-existing features and created new ones

Objectives:

- A. Visitors will know the types of **bedrock** formations.
- B. Visitors will know the depth of the **glacial deposits** and the types of material making up the deposits.
- C. Visitors will know how the **Wabash River and Valley** were formed.
- D. Visitors will be able to explain the cause of the **Wabash Torrent** and identify features that resulted from the torrent.

3. Water continues to build and tear down the landscape

Objectives:

- A. Visitors will understand the **cutting and depositing** process of a river.
- B. Visitors will know the definition of a **wetland** and its value.
- C. Visitors will know what a **fen and other wetland types** are and appreciate the unique conditions that created them.

4. Fire maintained the pre-settlement ecosystems

Objectives:

- A. Visitors will know what a **prairie** ecosystem is, and understand its ecology and historic range.
- B. Visitors will comprehend that this is the western edge of the **eastern deciduous forest**.
- C. Visitors will be able to identify a **savanna** and appreciate its unique attributes.

(2013 Update)

5. The abundant resources resulted in cultural events that forever changed the region.

Objectives:

- A. *Visitors will appreciate the traditional and present lifeways of the many people who occupied Prophetstown.*
- B. *Visitors will appreciate the emotional and spiritual connection of Prophetstown for native people.*
- C. *Visitors will appreciate the natural resources that attracted people here for thousands of years.*
- D. *Visitors will discover the many nations that gathered here and explore and appreciate their distinct cultures and languages.*

Recommendations

Introduction

All interpretive approaches support the theme: *The landscape of Prophetstown State Park was formed by ice, water, fire and humans*. This keeps all resources (interpretive staff and financial resources) focused on Prophetstown State Park (PSP). It makes visitors aware of the unique significance of the site.

The theme not only focuses interpretation on the park site, but also distinguishes its story from that of Museum at Prophetstown (MaP). The park will have an emphasis on the natural history while MaP will continue to emphasize cultural history. MaP is a living history site focusing on 1920s farming and Woodland Native Americans. PSP's theme includes the human aspect, but primarily as it relates to the restoration of its pre-settlement ecosystems.

The recommendations appear in Phases. Phase I uses current conditions of land ownership and access. Phase II is based on projected ownership, a contiguous property and/or trail access not currently available.

Methods

Interpretive Kiosk

Phase I

Entrance Gate. The two-paneled kiosk will greet people shortly after they pass the gate, but before the bike trail parking. The first panel would cover the interpretive theme with brief information and graphics on each of the subthemes. The second panel includes a park map and identifies park sites, trails and services. See Figure 1 for kiosk example.

2013 Addendum: The two-paneled kiosk was completed and placed at the Park Office.

Phase II

Wabash River. Located at the river bluff, this has been suggested as a possible interpretive center location. A more central location is recommended in this document (see Interpretive Center Recommendations). The river bluff site offers a scenic view and is located near proposed trails. A kiosk here would be 2-3 panels and cover the Wabash watershed, river corridor and environmental pressures. Additional panels would cover the cultural history of the Wabash (Native Americans, trade routes, stories and songs). A viewing platform and seating area provides a resting area for hikers and amenities for a stop on a guided interpretive walk.

Wayside Signs

Phase I

Wayside signs (See Figure 2 for sign standard) recommended along the current trail that circles the campgrounds and passes the fen:

1. **Fen.** The fen is a focal point of the trail. A wayside sign needs to explain what a fen is, the types of plants adapted to a fen and its importance as a nature preserve.
2013 Addendum: completed 2006
2. **Terrace.** The trail slopes down across a terrace toward the fen. A sign placed here would direct attention to the topography and explain its formation. A mention could be made about the Wabash Torrent having covered the entire area and shaped the park.
2013 Addendum: completed 2006
3. **Prairie Restoration.** This sign will be placed where the trail circles a prairie restoration. Areas to cover include an explanation of what a prairie is, its historic extent, dependence on fire, its demise and restoration. *2013 Addendum: completed 2006*

Additional sites

4. **Stone Bridge.** The stone bridge at the entry provides an opportunity for interpreting the geology of the region. All of the stone was collected locally and is representative of the glacial



Figure 1: Kiosk

Rocky Hollow Canyon

The erosive forces that shaped Rocky Hollow have returned in another form.

Rate of Erosion in Rocky Hollow

1 As glaciers melted and receded less than 20,000 years ago, meltwater robed through the region. The raging torrent eroded through glacial debris and cut into the bedrock. Boulders and rocks carried by the deluge further carved out the valley.

2 With the last Ice Age over, a quieter time fell upon a young Rocky Hollow. A green carpet began to creep over the newly exposed bedrock.

3 Today the rate of erosion is again speeding up. Instead of erosion from glacial meltwater, the erosive force is you. Rocky Hollow is being eroded by illegal foot traffic, hiking off the marked trails and climbing over rocks. You can see the surviving bryophytes only on the steepest rock faces. The bryophytes that once covered the valley floor and more gently sloping rocks are already gone.

Bryophytes: Plant Pioneers
When plants first emerged from the sea, the land was rocky and barren. The plants able to survive those harsh conditions are the plants you see. Before you, bryophytes. Bryophytes (liverworts and mosses) are among the most ancient plants on land. Nearly 50% of Indiana's bryophyte species live in Rocky Hollow. The quiet, undisturbed conditions have permitted them to thrive on the canyon walls and floor for thousands of years.

Wedge Rock was once a ledge at the top of the canyon. Water seeping into cracks froze and expanded the cracks. Wedge Rock broke free and plunged to the canyon floor.

Rocky Hollow is being loved to death. Please help protect your natural heritage by staying on the marked trails and off the rocks. This will allow life in the canyon to grow unimpeded in one of Indiana's most unique and beautiful natural areas.

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State Parks and Reservoirs

End of the Ice Age 14,000 years ago to today Today

This sign was made possible by a generous donation to the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation in memory of Bruce Owen Finkle.
Photos by Ed Schaub

Figure 2: Interpretive Panel

deposits that formed the park and surrounding region. *2013 Addendum: completed 2006*

5. Reconstructed Wetland. The sign will cover the value of wetlands and how this wetland works as part of the wastewater treatment facility.

Phase II

1. Savannah. Access to the savannah via a trail is needed before the sign is installed. The savannah sign would cover what a savannah is, its historic range, dependence on fire and restoration.

2. Wabash Heritage Trail. This would incorporate the above, but follow the Wabash Heritage theme as it supports the park theme. Depending on the extent of the trail along the river, this could be a package of 4-5 signs. Each sign would focus on a unique aspect/story of the Wabash.

3. Tippecanoe River. This wayside would appear along the trail that follows the Tippecanoe River. Areas to cover include the significance of the river and its formation.

GPS Coordinates for wayside signs

IDENT	LAT	LONG
BIKE2 (Tippecanoe River)	40.52612901	-86.78779193
FEN2	40.51247120	-86.82339021
SAV2 (Savannah)	40.49474716	-86.84185990

Trails

Prophetstown State Park is in a wonderful situation for planning trails. Rather than forcing the interpretation to fit existing trails, trails can be designed to fit the interpretive story. Some recommendations to make interpretation successful.

Phase I: Existing Trails

Fen Trail. An observation platform for the fen trail is already planned. This platform should be large enough to accommodate a class-sized group. A boardwalk is needed to protect the fen in wet areas. Walkers will widen the main trail by trampling vegetation to avoid mud on the main trail.

2013 Addendum: There are now two completed trails and two slated to be completed within the next few months. The recent trails are the result of additional land acquisition since the park's dedication. Specifically, an acquisition connected two portions of the park. See map for trail locations.



Tippecanoe River trail location.

Phase II: Future Trails

1. Tippecanoe River Trail. The Tippecanoe River is very scenic. Due to thick, high vegetation, it is impossible to get close to the river. The wayside sign mentioned earlier should be placed at a cleared area, possibly on a platform for better viewing of the river.

2. Linking Park Trails to Regional Trails. Welcome those passing through by making access points easy to find. Park entry point signs with a map and interpretive theme message will orient visitors and invite them to visit park trails and the interpretive center.

General Trail Recommendations

As future trails are discussed and developed, some points to keep in mind.

1. Trailheads. Plan trailheads at high use areas and make parking available. The campgrounds and interpretive center are such areas. Link the campground to the interpretive center with a trail. Program attendance on hikes will be higher if it is easy for people to get to the trailheads. If possible, have multiple trails leaving from the trailheads.

2. Destinations. Where applicable create spurs to interpretive sites where wayside signs

can be placed or interpretive hikes can be developed. The savannah is an example of a significant site that can be a spur from a main trail.

3. Linking Trails Within the Park. Create options for interpretive walks by **linking trails**. Linking trails offers the opportunity to have a shorter or longer walk depending on the group and topic.

2013 Addendum.

1. Trail 2 and the bike trail parallel each other and are visible to each other. As a result, there are cut-throughs developing. Providing a few access points between the two trails where they run close together would prevent unlimited cut-throughs that damage the prairie.

2. Working with the interpreter, one or two shorter loop trails should be created. These could be new trails, or short-cuts between existing trails. The loops would provide options for guided hikes with young children, and those with limited physical ability or time.

Structures

Phase I: Program Area

There is a need for a **program area** for the interpreter. This would be a small amphitheater with area is preferred because this would be where the bulk of the audience would come from. The program area should, however, also be accessible by car from day users and groups not staying in the campground. Locating the program area near a trailhead would provide a gathering site for a hike. A fire ring can open other program possibilities (campfire programs, stories, etc.). Other features that offer greater options for interpretive programs: picnic tables for activities, a raised platform for presentations and a roofed shelter for inclement weather.

2013 Addendum. This item is still greatly needed. At present time, there is no designated program space either indoors or outdoors. The interpreter currently uses the office conference room for some programming and the Village longhouse for themed programming. A program area near the campgrounds, but accessible to parking for day-users is recommended.

Phase II: Interpretive Center

2013 Addendum: See separate plan for Native American interpretation for details.

1. Location. There have been formal and informal discussions about the location of an interpretive center. Among the discussed options:

a. Joint Facility with PSP and MaP. MaP is in the planning and design phase of the Kampen Eagle Wing Center. This facility will cover the Native American story. Some discussion centered on making this center a collaboration between MaP and PSP. As of this writing, there is no consensus to have a joint facility.

b. Bluff Site. The initial master plan identified a site in the northeast end of the park for an interpretive center. The site is situated on a bluff overlooking wetlands. It has the advantage of a lovely location and view. Its disadvantage is that it will be distant from the high use areas of the park, so attendance would not be at its full potential.

c. Central Location. The possibility of locating the building in a more central location was also discussed. No specific site has been identified, however, it would need to be close to the campgrounds yet accessible without having to go through a campground gate. Close proximity to the fen trail and other trails is recommended. The advantage of this option is that the building and program attendance would be higher. Since the interpretive center houses the interpretive service, this site also has the advantage of being closer to the park office and MaP.

It is recommended that PSP construct the Interpretive Center at the central location. Since a goal is to get the interpretive message to as many visitors as possible, a central location will ensure success of this goal. It will also be an easier location in terms of efficiency and

staff logistics. To take advantage of the scenic qualities of the bluff site, a kiosk has been recommended earlier in the document.

2. Exhibits. The interpretive center exhibits will tell the story of Prophetstown State Park. Focusing on the theme, *The landscape of Prophetstown State Park is being formed by ice, water, fire and humans*, the exhibits will provide an explanation of the theme. The following are exhibit galleries and some exhibit possibilities.

Ice. Where the glaciers came from. Graphic and interactive exhibits explaining how the glaciers sculpted PSP. Interactive geologic exhibits focusing on the discovery and identification of rocks and minerals left behind.

Rivers. How the melting ice created the current rivers. The Teays River. How rivers were used for wildlife corridors, trade and travel routes.

Forests. How the landscape appeared at the time of Tecumseh. What happened to the forests.

Wetlands. What is a wetland? Their importance. Wetland types (fen, seep, etc.).

Prairie and Savannas. What is a prairie? What is a savanna? The role of fire.

Human Impact. Fire, hunting, draining and tiling, clearing, conservation and restoration.

3. Headquarters for Interpretive Service. An interpretive center serves a myriad of functions for the interpretive service. In addition to exhibits explaining the site, it houses the interpretive staff and is the headquarters for all of the interpretive programs. The following are discussion points from a facilitated meeting of IDNR and MaP staff. It includes elements to be considered in the interpretive center design.

Building Elements/Function:

Exhibits

Consider computers, hands-on, mechanical and physical exhibits, but keep "natural feel"

Computer connections with internet hook-up need to be installed

Meet museum standards met for security, humidity, archival storage

Exhibits need to tell the natural history story and influence of people

Include temporary, changeable exhibit space

Exhibits need to interpret the entire park property and its features (glaciers, rivers, bluff, history) Include an indoor wildlife viewing area that is removed from the rest of the exhibit area

The permanent exhibit space should be large enough to accommodate groups of 80-100 visitors

Include a separate kids area

Develop a short (2-5 minute) orientation video

Interior Building Design

Include office space for a full-time interpreter and 1-2 seasonal interpreters

Include a volunteer work/storage area

Include a reception area/information station at the entrance

Maintenance equipment needs to be concealed yet accessible

Include a space for use in training volunteers, interpreters and other property and DNR staff

Design a gathering space for meals and other logistics with school groups.

Allow space for a gift shop that has access from the exhibit hall as well as an outside entrance

Design an auditorium/multipurpose program space

Create a small program space with seating

Include a library/resource center

Create a lobby/entrance area for traffic flow



Distributing prairie plants at the 2004 dedication.

Exterior Building Design

- Include outside and inside access for restrooms
- Design an outdoor viewing and program area/staging area for groups
- The building needs a low profile with a focus on the landscape and theme
- The building must have an easy to find location and orientation
- Construction materials will be fiber cement or other **hard** exterior (low maintenance)
- Materials and construction need to be environmentally friendly
- Include RV parking
- Compartmentalize the building (exhibits can be closed off, etc.)
- Design for expansion

Programs

As with all other methods, interpretive programs also support the theme: *The landscape of Prophetstown State Park was formed by ice, water, fire and humans*. Implementation of the recommended programs assumes a full-time interpreter. As of this writing, this will happen in March of 2005. While not all can be implemented immediately, development can begin once the position is filled. For this reason, the Programs section does not have Phases. The recommendations have been broken into Topics, Methods and Cooperative Programs.



The stone bridge, built of locally gathered stone, provides a study of the local geology.

Topic Recommendations

This is by no means a comprehensive program list, but a list of topics. Many could be broken into smaller topics depending on the audience and method. Some topics would lend themselves more to the campground audience, while others work better for a special interest group.

Topics:

- Prophetstown Landscape. How the landscape appeared at the time of European Settlement (prairie, savannah, forest).
- Prairie Restoration. Burning, planting.
- Returning agricultural land to its natural state. Drain tiles, invasive species removal.
- Savannas. East (forest) meets west (prairie).
- Invasive species. How they got here, problems, removal.
- Former uses. Fencerows, pine plantations. NOTE: There has been a push to remove fencerows and structures. While there are safety reasons for taking down structures, old concrete or stone foundations can be great interpretive stops. Many have landscape plants (apple trees, daffodils, etc.) which are also of interest. It is recommended that safety concerns be balanced with keeping some remnants for interpretation.
- Native plant species versus non-native plant species.
- Natural landscaping.
- Geology at the stone bridge.
- Greenhouses.



Guided hike through the fen.

Method Recommendations

1. Trolley tours with an interpreter visiting both PSP and MaP. The tours, using the MaP trolley, would look at broader landscapes and ecosystems as well as structures such as the 1920s farm house at MaP.
2. School programs. School programming is touched on in *Collaborations and Partnerships*. PSP has a great site for school visits. The focus should be on the curriculum

an interpretive center with classroom space is available, interpretive staff will want to focus on field trips.

3. Restoration projects involving school students. Active projects work well with middle and high school students. They provide hands-on experience and a community contribution.

4. Programs with District Wildlife Biologist and/or District Forester. PSP shares an office building with the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Forestry. These are great resources for teacher training workshops, upper grade students and organizations.

5. Cycling with an interpreter. Bikes and bike trails through the park provide a means to see more of the park. This could be a program linked to larger regional trails or could originate in the campgrounds.

6. Nature Club (during summer or after school). As with school programs this could be offered at different schools, possibly as part of their regular After School program. As support builds, a nature club could be held at the park for a week during the summer.

7. Scout badges and projects. Scouts have many requirements that can be facilitated by PSP. It is important to keep badge programs interpretive. Requirements are usually general enough that the interpreter can apply them to the interpretive message.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The Greater Lafayette area is fortunate to boast several agencies offering interpretive and historical programs. In meetings with these agencies, there is a great interest in working with PSP to conduct joint efforts. Collaborative efforts extend staff and financial resources. **It is recommended that the PSP interpreter work closely with these agencies and keep informed about what is currently being offered.** It is important that PSP not duplicate what is already being done by others. It is also important to discuss various fee structures offered by other agencies so that programming does not become competitive. Some agencies are offering programs for free, while for others fees are a vital revenue source.

With several agencies, there are opportunities to offer a **Passport Program** to encourage local residents to visit regional sites (Fort Quiatenon, Delphi Canal Museum) and use the expanding trail system that will link PSP to other areas.

Recommended Collaborations:

1. Museum at Prophetstown. MaP offers a variety of programs for school field trips. **With planning, the field trip experience could be expanded to include PSP.** MaP would focus on the cultural experience, while PSP would focus on the natural resources. One fee would cover the trip and the field trip would be marketed jointly in brochures.

2. Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation (TCPR). TCPR conducts programs throughout the county. Of interest is that they own the nearby Battleground property, including a small nature center and other meeting facilities. TCPR is already offering collaborative programs with MaP. **Recommended joint efforts would include summer day camps (already being conducted by TCPR) and special events.**

3. Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA). TCHA manages several historical sites. Most notable is the Battlefield Museum. The bicentennial of the Battle of Tippecanoe is in 2011 and TCHA will be organizing events, archaeological demonstrations, etc. **PSP could play a big role in offering support and programs for these events.**

4. Purdue University. Purdue offers both research expertise and practical assistance. Purdue includes the Extension Service as well as the Natural Resources Department. Possible collaborative efforts include: lecture series, 4-H projects, and Master Gardener volunteers.

2013 Addendum

Guided Interpretation

1. *Kite flying event. Prophetstown's wide open spaces are ideal for kite flying. Organized kite groups have been in communication with the interpreter about conducting an event at the park.*

2. *Military venues. ROTC and other military groups visit the Battleground to discuss battle strategies and analyze the battle. Creating a program for this audience that focuses on Native strategies, weaponry and tactics would offer a comparison. It would also provide an opportunity to bring things up to the present with Native veterans.*

3. *Geology Event. Park land is being leased and quarried by a sand and gravel company. Eventually the quarries will become lakes in the park. The company has offered site tours in the past to school and scout groups. Tours can be offered as a public program and become part of a larger geology event. Other geology topics covered would be: spring and seeps, glaciers and stone tools.*

Self-guided Interpretation

1. *Prairie wildflower interpretation. While there is a state-wide wildflower brochure, the Prophetstown prairie contains flowers specific to that site. Using media such as a brochure or app, the media would contain color photos of the flowers. An area of the prairie could be designated for identification. Since there are different blooming seasons, moveable stakes would help visitors locate specific flowers.*

2. *Landscaping beds at the park office. The park maintains greenhouses at the office. Landscaping around the office could help with identification and give planting and care information.*

3. *Trail 2 wayside exhibit. The stretch of Trail 2 from Trail 1 to the fishing pond takes hikers through habitat unique in the park. The trail travels through the woods along the river bluffs, past seeps filled with skunk cabbage and down to Harrison Creek. There is a sign about the Wabash torrent at the Observation Deck. Another sign describing the seeps at the river bluffs is recommended.*

Staff

Full-time Staff

Starting up a new interpretive program requires a professional interpretive staff. The goal is to have a full-time interpreter on board by spring of 2005. A full-time position offers continuity of program. In the case of PSP, a full-time person will be key to building community relationships and advocacy groups for the new park.

Seasonal Staff

The logistics of maintaining an open interpretive center, while attending off-site meetings, running errands, leading hikes or taking a day off requires additional staff. While volunteers permit the building to remain open and can help with certain tasks, they are not a substitute for trained professional interpreters. Spring and fall will be heavy school group seasons and the summer will experience high family camping. It is recommended that two seasonal positions running from spring through fall be implemented. Both positions would be 1350 hours, with one working spring/fall/winter to accommodate schools and one working in the summer to accommodate public events). Both positions are needed once an interpretive center is in place. This would allow the building to remain open and ensure program continuity throughout this busy season.

Receptionist

Once an interpretive center is in place a receptionist will be needed to assist with clerical

work, answering phones, staffing the reception desk, working with volunteers and other duties. The position will be an intermittent position, working 2-3 days per week.

2013 Addendum: Current staffing

Full-time Staff

In 2012, a full-time interpreter position began at Prophetstown State Park. The position will go a long way in creating a local presence in the community, building continuity and expanding programming.

Seasonal Staff

In addition to the full-time position, there is a 180-day seasonal interpreter position.

Future staff recommendations

Historic interpreter. See Native American plan insert.

Summary of Recommendations

Phase I (existing conditions of land ownership and access)

General

Begin communication and dialog with other regional interpretive agencies.
Focus interpretive efforts on interpretive theme.

Kiosks

Entrance Gate near Bike Trail Parking Lot.

Wayside Signs

Fen
Terrace
Prairie
Stone Bridge
Reconstructed Wetland

Trails

Observation platform and boardwalk at fen

Structures

Program area/amphitheater near campgrounds

Programs

Implementation of recommendations can begin when full-time position is in place, March 2005.
See complete list of program ideas.

Staff

Full-time interpreter by March 2005
Two nine-month seasonal positions by summer of 2006

Phase II (projected land ownership, trail development and access)

Kiosks

Wabash River

Wayside Signs

Savannah
Wabash River
Tippecanoe River

Trails

Clearing a view and overlook at Tippecanoe River

General Trail Recommendations

Develop trailheads at high use areas
Provide spur trails to destination points
Link trails to provide options
Link trails to regional trails

Structures

Interpretive Center with exhibits addressing theme

Appendix A: Listed Species Identified at Prophetstown

From Indiana Natural Heritage Database

Plants

Sanguisorba Canadensis (Canada Burnet), SE

Viola pedatifida (Prairie Violet), ST

Animals

Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren), SE

From Sycamore Audubon Society (reported sightings)

Animals

Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern), SE

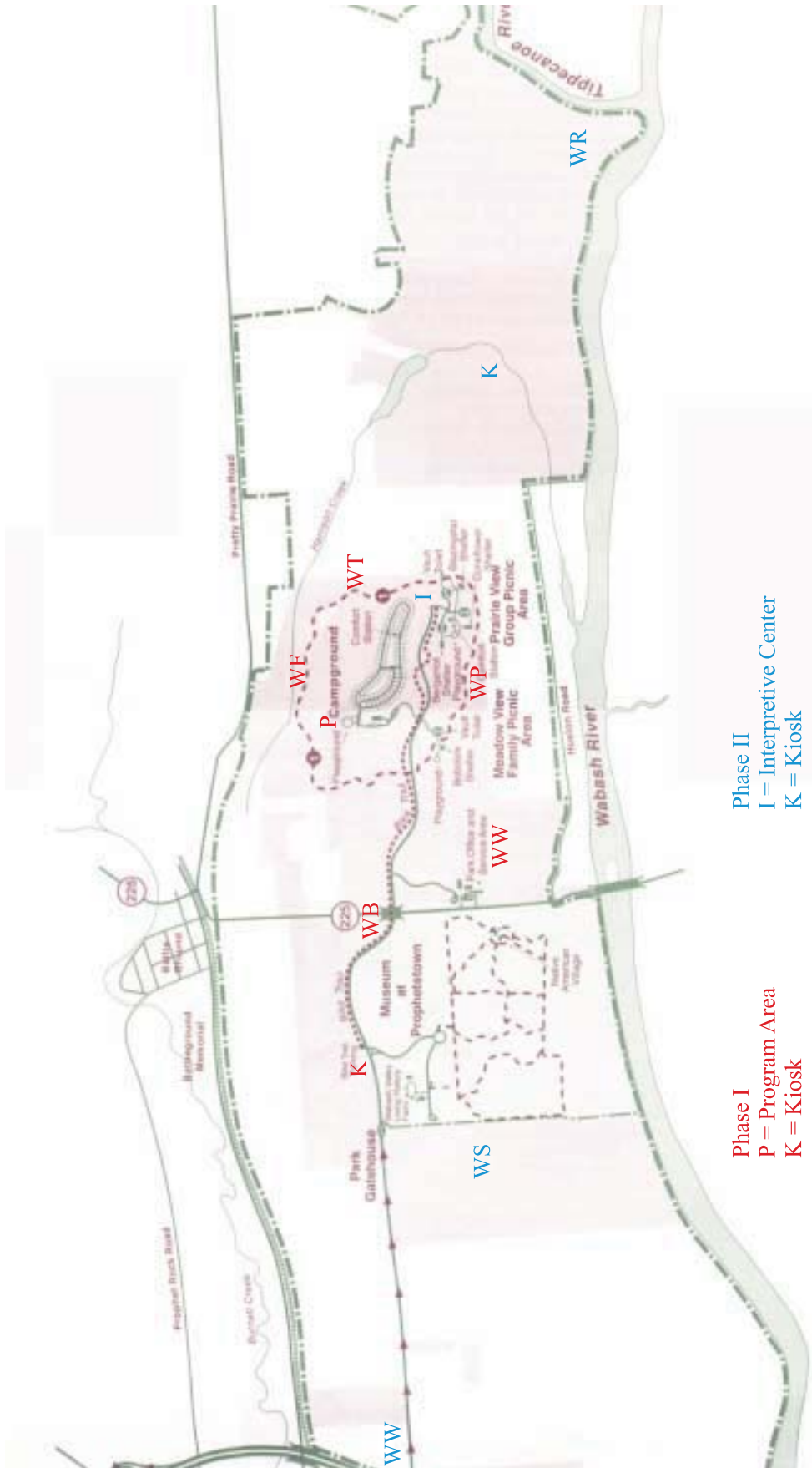
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle), SE

Cistothorus paustris (Marsh Wren), SE

Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier), SE

Lutra canadensis (River Otter), SE

Appendix B: Map of Recommendations



Phase I
 P = Program Area
 K = Kiosk

Waysides
 WT = Terrace
 WP = Prairie
 WF = Fen
 WB = Stone Bridge
 WW = Reconstructed Wetland

Phase II
 I = Interpretive Center
 K = Kiosk

Waysides
 WS = Savannah
 WR = Tippecanoe River
 WW = Wabash Heritage Trail



Prophetstown Interpretive Plan 2013

*The wind rushing over the prairie
The wind will take me home
Ojibway*

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Introduction

In 2012, the opportunity to interpret the American Indian story of Prophetstown was transferred from the non-profit Museum at Prophetstown (now The Farm at Prophetstown) to the state park. Programs and the management of the village facility will now be the responsibility of the park.

Meetings with tribal representatives in December of 2012 and community groups in April of 2013 provided information and ideas about how best to interpret the American Indian presence in the park. Both overarching messages and specific program ideas were suggested.

This plan organizes recommendations in phases. Phase I includes items that can be implemented in the short term. This includes recommendations in the categories of: guided interpretation, self-guided interpretation, facilities and staff. (Deleted sentence) Phase I recommendation planning can begin immediately. Phase II recommendations may require fundraising, budget approvals, and/or long-term planning.

It is hoped that this plan will provide clear direction for programming related to American Indian heritage and present-day lives at Prophetstown State Park in the immediate and distant future.

The interpretive sub-theme addressed in this portion of the park plan is:

The abundant resources resulted in cultural events that forever changed the region.

Objectives:

- A. Visitors will appreciate the traditional and present lifeways of the many people who occupied Prophetstown.
- B. Visitors will appreciate the emotional and spiritual connection of Prophetstown for native people.
- C. Visitors will appreciate the natural resources that attracted people here for thousands of years.
- D. Visitors will discover the many nations that gathered here and explore and appreciate their distinct cultures and languages.

Recommendations

Recommendations are categorized in Phases -- items that can be implemented immediately, and those that may require fund-raising, budget requests and long-term planning. Recommendations are also separated as to whether they require guided or non-guided methods of interpretation. Guided interpretation involves an interpreter conducting or facilitating a program or event. Self-guided interpretation includes media such as newsletters, exhibits, signs, etc. Some recommendations are related to facilities and staff.

Phase I

Guided Interpretation

1. Seeking American Indian input on program topics and participation.

It is important to maintain an open dialogue with native representatives regarding program topics at Prophetstown. Information, skills training and participation is encouraged to make these programs accurate and successful.

2. Incorporating American Indian themes into existing events and programs.

Existing programs already receiving public support can be expanded to include American Indian themes. For example, the Halloween campground event can be shaped to include night hikes that incorporate a native component. Pumpkin activities can be tied to native uses of pumpkins and gourds.

3. Developing a clearly defined policy on living history versus re-enactment programs.

Discussions with native representatives stressed that re-enactments of historic events should be avoided as they perpetuate the stereotype of lost battles and the end of a culture. Living history programs that demonstrate lifeways are preferred. Costuming should be used cautiously if at all.

As outside groups may request to conduct, attend or participate in re-enactments and first-person interpretation, it is recommended that the park establish a policy regarding appropriate programming. This will guide future staff in working with interested organizations.

4. Thematic Events.

Lifeways programming would be incorporated into existing interpretive programs such as hikes and general history programs. Several thematic events have also been suggested that focus on American Indian lifeways. Input from representatives and active participation from American Indians is recommended to keep the programs accurate and respectful.

a. Cattail Festival

The cultural and natural history of cattails may include programs and demonstrations about wetlands, cattails as food, cattail mat weaving and other uses of cattails.

b. Maple Sugar Event

The process of tapping trees and preparing maple sugar is demonstrated.

Additionally, there can be an emphasis on sugar camp life and seasonal celebrations associated with the end of winter.

c. Storytelling Event

This could be a winter event and include both public presentations as well as internal ceremonial storytelling.

d. Raptor Event

A raptor event would feature live birds and focus on the symbolism of the birds as well as the natural history of the raptors.

5. Complement farm programs with related American Indian programs.

The Farm at Prophetstown offers demonstrations of agricultural activities such as planting and harvesting. It is recommended that there be closer collaboration between the Farm and the park, allowing demonstrations of related American Indian planting techniques simultaneously with the Farm programs.

Self-guided Interpretation

1. Newsletter.

Keeping communication open with the native community is critical for success. A list of interested parties will be regularly updated with progress reports, programs, schedules and other updates related to park interpretation.

2. Incorporating languages into park facilities and features.

The use of language is important in conveying the distinct nations represented at Prophetstown. Labels throughout the park using the various native languages can help to convey that message. Labels can appear on buildings and facilities, and also in association with natural features such as the fen, creek and prairie. Interpretive center exhibit labels and audios would allow visitors to read and hear the living languages.

3. Cultural practices binder at the village.

The village has several recommendations that appear in a later portion of this plan. The following recommendation is an immediate self-guided need.

Currently, the village is open to the public with access from The Farm and from the park office. Most of the use is passive, with visitors strolling through the buildings. There is one large sign approached from The Farm. Smaller signs appear within the buildings.

What is lacking is the emphasis on the sanctity of the site. The closest comparison is entering an active house of worship. At such sites, visitors may tour, but a certain protocol is expected. Areas that are off-limits are defined and proper behavior is established. At this time, these messages are not being communicated, leading to the misuse and inadvertent disrespect for the site.

An exterior grade laminate 3-ring binder, mounted on a post should be placed at each of the two access points, but away from the village itself so as not to diminish the visual impact. The opening message would be "You are entering a

sacred space.” (Wording would be written and/or reviewed by native representatives.) Each flip page would have a message about appropriate behavior, with explanations.

See: <http://www.systemeinc.com/fofia-eng.html#interior> (image 16) for concept

4. Peace pole.

Installing a peace pole was suggested at early meetings. A peace pole is a vertical pole with the inscription “Let peace prevail.” carved in several languages. Having the phrase carved using the indigenous languages represented at Prophetstown would convey a poignant message.

5. History of Prophetstown brochure.

A brochure can be developed in consultation with tribal representatives for those who want more in-depth information that can be taken with them. It would also be helpful to provide this to schools or other groups prior to their visit. The content would include the history of Prophetstown, tribes represented and native lifeways. This can also be placed on the website as a resource.

Smartphone Ap for Village Tour. (see Phase II)

Facilities

1. Village.

The village was formerly under the auspices of The Farm at Prophetstown. Original plans were to have a more extensive village, more representative of the original Prophetstown. Over the succeeding years, the Farm’s staff and financial resources emphasized the 1930s farm operation. With the transfer of the native story to the state park, the responsibility of the village also comes to the park. Immediate attention is needed in the following areas:

a. Maintenance to the council house.

The council house is in need of repair and maintenance. The roof has several holes in it, allowing rain and animals to enter and damage the building. The support timbers are showing signs of rotting.



The village was constructed with the assistance of local Miami. There is the possibility that the DNR could provide the materials and the local Miami (or others) could provide the labor.

b. Security.

The village is accessible at all times on foot. Buildings are open for touring. The interpreter has mentioned that items within the buildings have been moved. While there are objects that could help with interpreting the village, the interpreter is reluctant to leave such items unattended. There are a few options to increase security.

i. Locking the buildings. While this would permit items to be protected from theft and vandalism, it would mean that a majority of the visitors would not get the benefit of seeing the building interiors.

ii. Security cameras. Hidden cameras are a deterrent to vandals. There is an expense associated with purchasing, installing and maintaining security cameras, but they would help with the vandalism threat.

iii. Secure storage area. Having a secure storage area would allow props, materials and other items to be locked up except when a program was being conducted.

c. Diorama

A large scale diorama is on display in the council house. The display is an historic representation of the village. The diorama is uncovered, leaving it susceptible to damage from people, rain through the roof and bird droppings. It is recommended to protect the diorama with a plexiglass cover.

d. Pedestrian crossing to the village from the office.

Access to the village from the park office requires people to cross State Road 225. The trailhead is unmarked and is not clearly visible. Additionally, there is no pedestrian crossing sign to alert drivers on SR 225. A painted crosswalk with trail identification signs for pedestrians, and pedestrian crossing signs for drivers will make this crossing safer.

Phase II

Guided Interpretation

1. Athletic Competitions.

The historic village may have included a sports field and running track. Races were common for competition and health building. Lacrosse was played among native people and remains popular today.

Events encouraging athletic ability and strength were suggested by native representatives at meetings. These events would be offered for native people. If open to the public, there would need to be interpretation about the events.

A running track, event space and a lacrosse field can be created as well as infrastructure needed to support these events.

2. Canoe/water events.

A water-themed event would focus on the role that the Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers played for travel and trade. Traditional canoe building, paddling workshops, tours and paddling competitions are among the events that could take place.



A canoe launch and road access at the park is required for this event. An option would be to have a launch on the Tippecanoe River off of Pretty Prairie Road, and another launch at the river's confluence with the Wabash, or further down on the Wabash. The issue of park entrance at these points would need to be addressed.

3. Pow-wows.

Pow-wows are events held for native people, but with the public invited as spectators. Pow-wows include competitive dance, vendors and other events. Pow-wows would be organized and conducted by American Indian representatives.

Space for pow-wows could be found at the athletic competition area mentioned in the earlier recommendation. Consulting with native representatives is important to determine what amenities and infrastructure **are** needed.

4. Art/music events.

Workshops and demonstrations on native instruments, music performances, arts and crafts can be organized and conducted by skilled native artisans. If participatory, fees can be charged to cover costs and provide revenue for the artisan.

5. Youth camps.

Camps for native youth as well as for all children were suggested. Camps for native youth would be hosted by the tribes, and provide a venue for native learning. Camps for the public would introduce American Indian culture and erase stereotypes. These could be presented by park staff and tribes together.

Self-guided Interpretation

1. Hall of Nations.

Large vertical exterior panels would depict the 14 tribes represented at Prophetstown in a roofed, open-sided shelter. Panels would be at least 6' tall, comparable to the panels currently at the park office.

An introductory panel would cover the pre-historic human presence and the natural resources that brought them here. The next 14 panels would depict the cultural and historical information that each tribe wanted to include. A final panel would cover modern times, including military service. This would bring the total number of panels to 16.

Placing this Hall of Nations display outdoors allows it to be viewed at all times whether the interpretive center is open or not.

See: <http://www.systemeinc.com/fofia-eng.html#interior> (image 17) for concept.

2. A Way of Life: Commemorative Art.

An art piece placed at a prominent location in the park would serve to honor the native people and that which they wished to preserve - a lifestyle. The art piece would be created by a native artist selected through a contest for best design. The piece should honor the American Indian connections to the land, past and present, and memorialize those Indians lost in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

3. Record stories.

Interviews and stories from the different tribes should be taped and archived for future use in programming and documentaries about Prophetstown.

4. Circle of Flags.

The tribes present at Prophetstown would have their nation's flag displayed as part of a circle of flags. This display could be installed near the park office, north of the parking circle and close to the present village site.

5. Smartphone Ap for Village Tour.

To supplement the cultural practices binder in Phase I, a smartphone tour will be available. The tour would provide extended information about the site history, buildings, tribes represented at Prophetstown and cultural practices.

Facilities

1. Ceremonial/reflective space.

A space for ceremonies and reflection can be placed northeast of the interpretive center site. The rise of the prairie can create an element of privacy. There are trails in the area, so it is recommended that access to the site be designed so that privacy is ensured during certain times. Gates and precautionary signage are ways to control access.

Working closely with native representatives on what types of spaces and amenities are needed is important for this project to work. Seating, restrooms, parking and electricity may be needed and could be developed over time as funding allows.



Possible location for ceremonial area.

2. Interpretive Center

An interpretive center, located near the basketball court and fishing pond would serve as an educational and meeting space. The main emphasis would be on providing a “place for things to happen”. Flexible spaces can serve as meeting rooms, classrooms and program space. A library and viewing area are included. Other functional spaces include restrooms, offices and storage space. Some space for permanent and rotating exhibits is included in the design, but exhibitry will not be a primary purpose of the facility. Exhibits would tie to the native story and to the ecosystems of Prophetstown (rivers, wetlands, prairie, woodlands, savannah).

A quiet reflective space, either looking out on the prairie or in an interior room, should be incorporated for those unable to visit the outdoor ceremonial area (see #3).

Discussion of building design emphasized that it not be obtrusive on the landscape. Constructing the building to be partially underground with a prairie roof has been suggested.

The recorded stories mentioned in an earlier recommendation could be presented in the program area on a screen that then opens out onto the prairie, or to the re-located village. (see relocation recommendation)

3. Village

a. Expand the village to be representative of the historical site. The historic Prophetstown village was extensive with several tribes in residence. Each had unique dwelling styles and support structures. Maintaining accuracy is important, so research is needed to re-create the village with the numbers and styles of structures that were historically there.

b. Relocating village to interpretive center site. The present location of the village is accessible from the Farm at Prophetstown, but can be problematic now that it is managed by the park. Its closest access point is from the park office, but requires walking across State Road 225. There are safety concerns, especially with school groups crossing the road.

With the building of an interpretive center, moving the village to that location makes sense. It would be close to the interpretive offices and program areas. Its location would be safe for pedestrians and away from traffic.

Staff

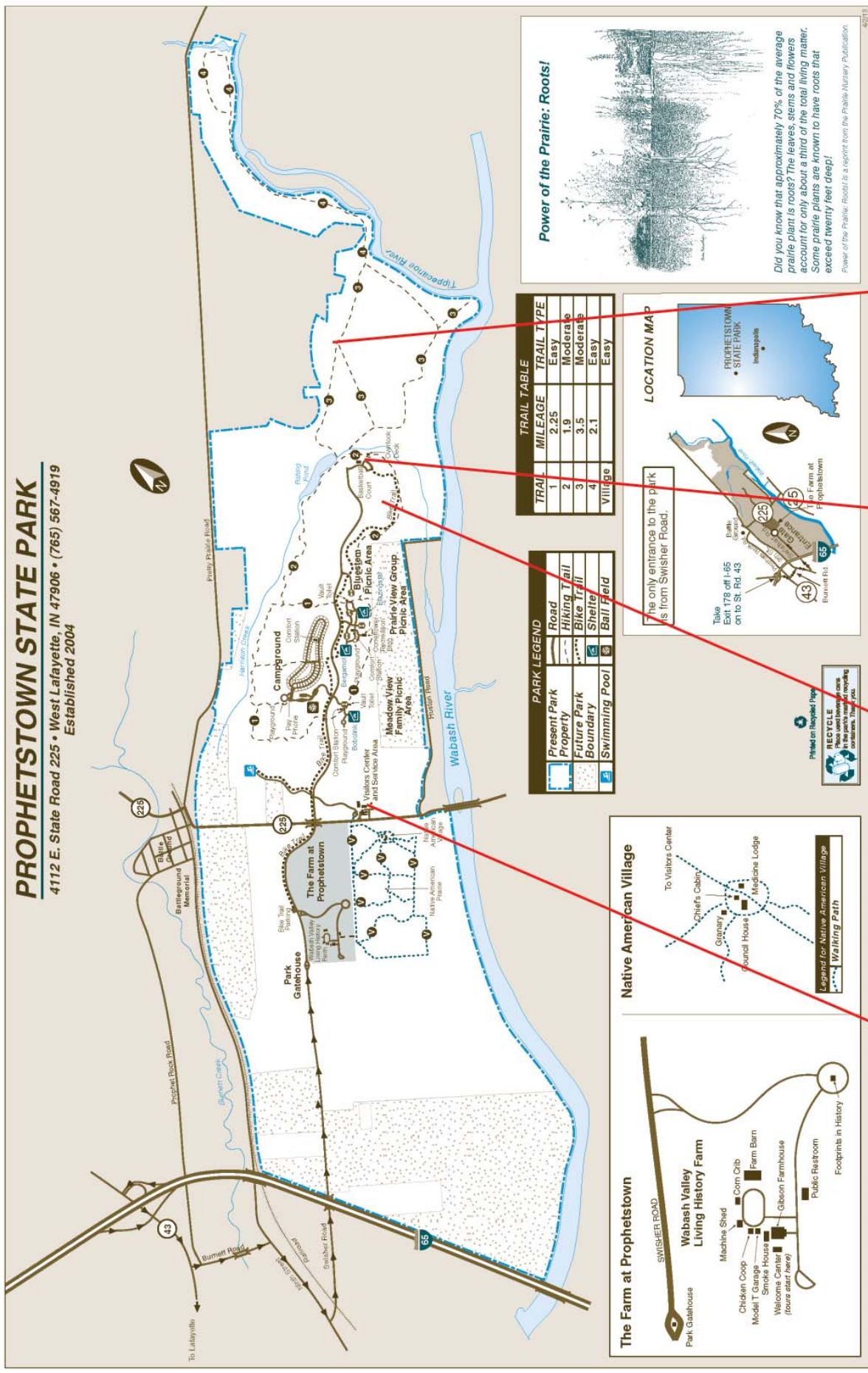
1. Historic interpreter.

Interpretive staff currently includes one full-time interpreter and one 180-day seasonal interpreter. With the addition of the American Indian story to the park's interpretive responsibility, it is recommended that a full-time interpretive position whose focus is historical and cultural be added. Hiring an individu-

al who is native would help ensure accuracy, empathy, credibility and relevance to programming.

2. Build relationship with Purdue for volunteers, research and class projects. The park's close proximity to Purdue University creates excellent opportunities for research, class projects, internships and volunteers. Building relationships with individual faculty and departments will help extend the existing programming, information and staff available.

PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK
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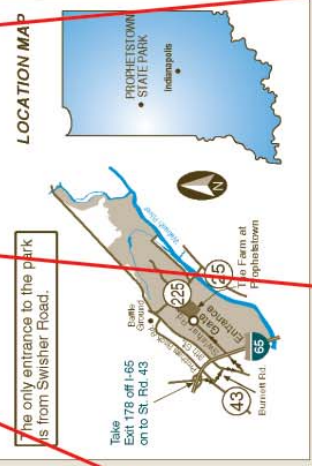


TRAIL TABLE

TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2.25	Easy
2	1.9	Moderate
3	3.5	Moderate
4	2.1	Easy
Village		Easy

PARK LEGEND

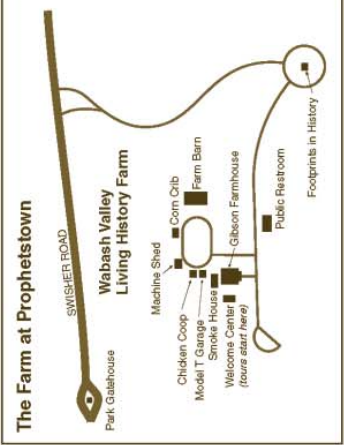
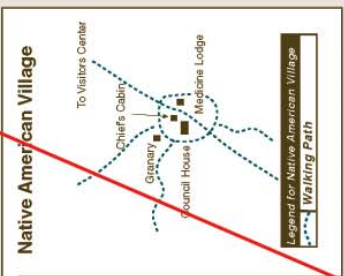
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Bike Trail
	Shelter
	Ball Field



Power of the Prairie: Roots!

Did you know that approximately 70% of the average prairie plant is roots? The leaves, stems and flowers account for only about a third of the total living matter. Some prairie plants are known to have roots that exceed twenty feet deep!

Power of the Prairie: Roots! is a report from the Prairie Nursery Publication.



Ceremonial Space

Location for Interpretive Center and Village re-location

Way of Life Commemorative Art

Circle of Flags