

**Consideration of the dedication of the Crooked Lake Addition Nature Preserve in Noble County.**

This proposed Nature Preserve is located in Noble county approximately 6.5 miles north of Columbia City. It is located within Indiana's Northern Lakes Natural Region.

This preserve adds to the current protection of the undeveloped shoreline at one of Indiana's cleanest and deepest lakes. The addition adds to the forested slopes which are dominated by beech and sugar maple, shagbark hickory, red oak, sassafras and white oak. The understory consists of sugar maple, ironwood, beech, and flowering dogwood. The site has an abundance of spring ephemerals.

Birds and waterfowl common to the area are great blue herons, green herons, wood ducks, kingfishers, owls, and hawks. White-tailed deer, squirrels and raccoons take refuge in the woods. Muskrats and beaver are found along the shore. This Nature Preserve is an important addition to the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve and to the watershed and water quality of Crooked Lake. This is a lake that is only one of a few in Indiana that still support populations of the "cisco" fish, a species of 'special concern'.

Indiana University previously owned a substation that was located on-site as well as a small campground for workers. It has since been removed.

It is owned by Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Crooked Lake Addition Nature Preserve  
Noble County

NRC Exhibit A  
USGS Quad: Merriam  
Ownership: DNR Nature Preserves

