

**Consideration of the dedication of the Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve in Adams County and Jay County**

This Nature Preserve in Adams County and Jay County will protect 719.23 acres. The main features of this site include early successional emergent wetlands with upland and floodplain forest. Also present are tree plantings and shrublands that provide mid-successional habitat.

This preserve has a parking area and over three miles of walking trails. A variety of birds can be found at this site including short-eared owls, northern harriers, waterfowl, and migrating shorebirds. Sandhill Cranes and bald eagles can both be found here.

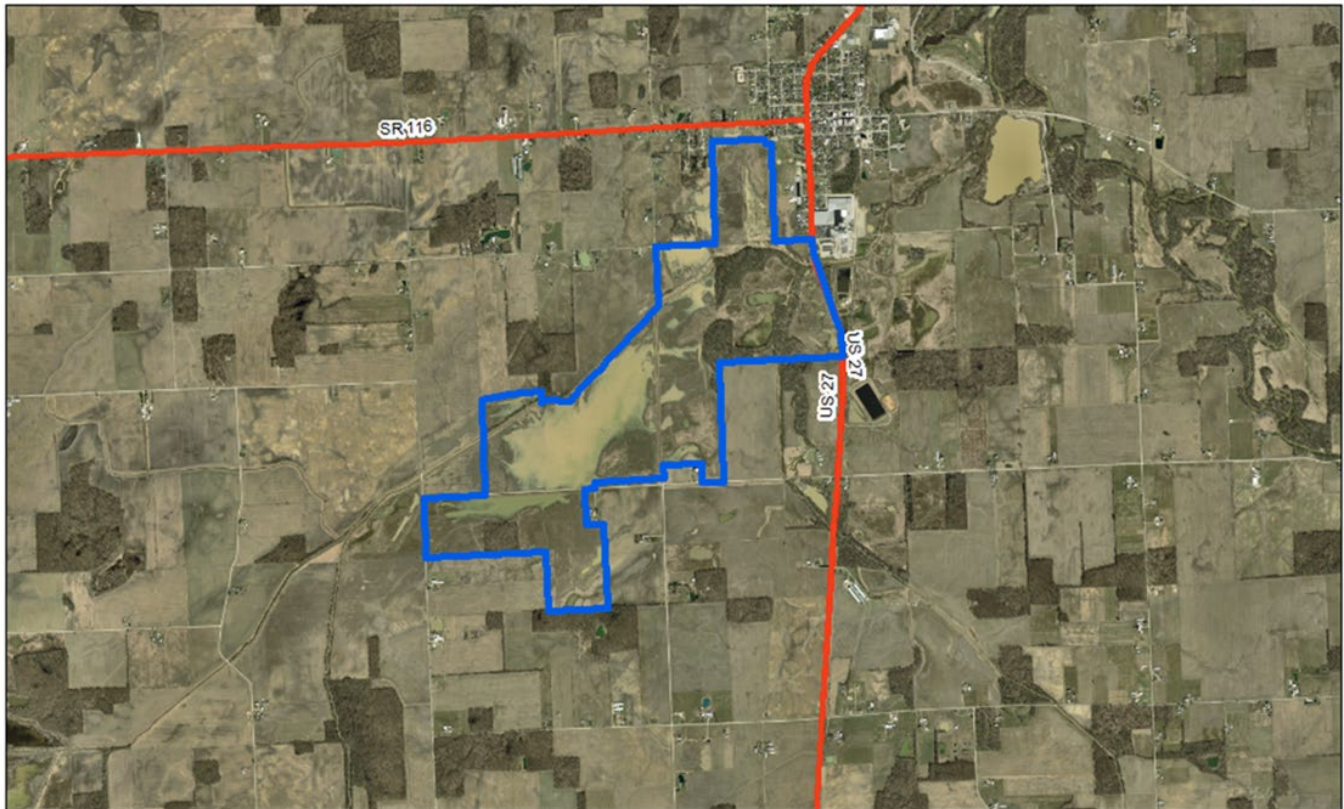
It is owned by the Division of Nature Preserves, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and under the administration of Division of Nature Preserves.

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

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve  
County: Adams, Jay  
Size: 719.23

NRC Exhibit A  
USGS Quad Map: Geneva  
Ownership: IDNR - Nature Preserves



map created by M Wyrick IDNR Nature Preserves 2.23.23

0 0.5 1 Miles



**ARTICLES OF DEDICATION FOR  
LIMBERLOST SWAMP NATURE PRESERVE**

Pursuant to the provisions of IC 14-31-1, and solely for the uses and purposes set forth in such Chapter, the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources, being the owner thereof, by these Articles dedicates, and agrees to hold in trust for the people of the State of Indiana, a perpetual non-exclusive easement for the following described real estate (herein called "Nature Preserve") located in Wabash Township in Adams County, and in Bearcreek Township in Jay County, Indiana, to-wit:

38-0021-30 (Miller Tract)

The following described Real Estate located in Jay County, in the State of Indiana, to-wit:

The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 24 North, Range 14 East in Bear Creek Township, Jay County, Indiana, described as follows:

Beginning at a nail marking the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 24 North, Range 14 East: thence north 89 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds east 1328.16 feet to a rebar marking the northeast corner of said quarter quarter section; thence south 01 degree 01 minutes 34 seconds west 1322.19 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar at the southeast corner of said quarter quarter section; thence south 89 degrees 27 minutes 29 seconds west 1328.99 feet to a one inch pipe at the southwest corner of said quarter quarter section; thence north 01 degree 03 minutes 50 seconds east 1318.80 feet to the point of beginning. containing 40.27 acres, more or less, and subject to the right-of-way for County Road 900-N along the northerly side, to the right-of-way for County Road 50-W along the westerly side and to all easements of record.

Said Parcel being subject to a Perpetual Easement granted by Clarence E. Miller and Thelma Lucille Miller to United States of America and through the Commodity Credit Corporation by Warranty Easement Deed dated December 21, 2007 and recorded December 26, 2007, as Instrument No. 0704226, pages 1-11 of the records of Jay County, Indiana.

This conveyance is made subject to: Legally effective easements, rights of way, and restrictions of record and existing streets and highways

38-0014-30

The following described real estate in Bear Creek Township, Jay County, Indiana, to-wit:

Part of the west half of the northeast quarter and part of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 24 north Range 14 east, Jay County, Indiana described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of said northeast quarter, found per record witness; thence south 89 degrees. 44 minutes 06 seconds east (assumed and the hearing basis for these bearings), 907.93 feet along the north line of said northeast quarter to the northwest corner of the 7.00 acre tract described in Deed Record 160 Page 180; thence south 00 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west. 800.00 feet lo a 5/8" rebar stake at the southwest corner of said 7.00 acre tract; thence south 89 degrees 44 minutes 06 seconds east 381.20 feet to a 5/8" re bar stake at the southeast corner of said 7.00 acre tract: thence south 00 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds west, 1855.70 feet to a railroad rail post: thence north 89 degrees 16 minutes 09 seconds west, 1305.68 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake on the west line of said northeast quarter; thence north 01 degrees 13 minutes 56 seconds east, 1314.10 feet along the west line of said northeast quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of said northwest quarter; thence north 89 degrees 40 minutes 10 seconds west 24.21 feet along the south line of the northeast quarter of said northwest quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake; thence north 00 degrees 51 minutes 05 seconds east. 8.62 feet to an 8" wood post: thence north 89 degrees 28 minutes 41 seconds west, 1306.32 feet to

a 5/8" rebar stake on the west line of the northeast quarter of said northwest quarter; thence north 01 degrees. 04 minutes 34 seconds east, 1319.71 feet along the west line of the northeast quarter of said northwest quarter to the north line of said northwest quarter; thence south 89 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds east, 1334.32 feet along said north line to the Place of Beginning.

containing 112.33 acres more or less.

Subject to the right-of-way of County Road 900 North and all covenants, easements, right of ways, and restrictions of record. All as shown by Stoodly Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on Plat of Survey Number W-12089

01-0008-30

Part of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 25 North, Range 14 East, Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana, described as follows:

Starting at the Southwest corner of said Southwest Quarter found per record witness; thence North 01 degrees 22 minutes 38 seconds east (assumed and the basis for these bearings), 442.00 feet along the west line of said Southwest Quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake which shall be the place of beginning; thence continuing north 01 degrees 22 minutes 38 seconds east, 2194.54 feet along said west line to the southwest corner of said Northwest Quarter found per record witness; thence north 01 degrees 09 minutes 23 seconds east, 1303.15 feet along the west line of said Northwest Quarter to the south line of the 26.91 acre tract shown in Plat Book 6, page 512, and being in the centerline of a Legal Open Drain known as the "Loblolley"; thence along the south line of said 26.91 acre tract and in said open drain the following five (5) courses; thence north 51 degrees 35 minutes 10 seconds east, 271.59 feet; thence north 63 degrees 21 minutes 04 seconds east, 508.61 feet; thence north 59 degrees 50 minutes 21 seconds east, 412.20 feet; thence north 36 degrees 11 minutes 27 seconds east, 420.51 feet; thence north 51 degrees 47 minutes 23 seconds east, 85.81 feet to the east line of the west half of said Northwest Quarter; thence south 01 degrees 10 minutes 44 seconds west, 2311.03 feet along said east line to a 5/8" rebar stake at the northeast corner of the west half of said Southwest Quarter; thence south 01 degrees 17 minutes 21 seconds west; 2638.97 feet along the east line of said west half to a P.K. nail on the south line of said Southwest Quarter; thence north 89 degrees 24 minutes 15 seconds west, 476.33 feet along said south line to a P.K. nail; thence north 02 degrees 34 minutes 23 seconds east, 442.00 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake; thence north 89 degrees 23 minutes 21 seconds west, 855.22 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 124.06 acres, more or less.

Subject to: The right-of-way of County Road 1200 South, a legal open drain known as the "Loblolley" and rights-of-way and easements of record.

All as shown by Stoodly Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on Plat of Survey Number 1497.

ALSO: Part of the Southeast, Southwest, and Northeast Quarters of Section 31, Township 25 North, Range 14 East, Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana, described as follows:

Starting at the southeast corner of said Southeast Quarter found per record witness; thence south 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west, (assumed and the basis for these bearings), 1510.00 feet along the south line of said Southeast Quarter to a P.K. nail which shall be the place of beginning; thence continuing south 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west, 1127.28 feet along said south line to the southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter found per record witness; thence north 89 degrees 51 minutes 51 seconds west, 1307.83 feet along the south line of said Southwest Quarter to a P.K. nail at the southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Southwest Quarter; thence north 00 degrees 59 minutes 55 seconds east, 1317.19 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake at the northwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter; thence south 89 degrees 55 minutes 23 seconds east, 1311.83 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake at the northeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Southwest Quarter; thence north 01 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds east, 658.61 feet along the west line of said Southeast Quarter to the southwest corner of the 10 acre tract described in Deed Record 185, page 238; thence south 89 degrees 58 minutes 50 seconds east 660.00 feet to the southeast corner of said 10 acres tract; thence north 01 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds east, 132.00 feet along the east line of said 10 acre tract to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southwest corner of the 4 acre tract described in said Deed Record 185, page 238; thence north 51 degrees 56 minutes 59 seconds east, 856.11 feet along the south line of said 4 acre tract, being in the centerline of a legal open drain know as the "Loblolley" to the southeast corner Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence north 46 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds east, 700.27 feet along said centerline; thence north 45 degrees 13 minutes 05 seconds east, 1003.56 feet along said centerline; thence north 48 degrees 37 minutes 13 seconds east 172.94 feet along said centerline to the east line of said Northeast Quarter; thence south 01 degrees 09 minutes 23 seconds west, 1304.36 feet along the east line of said Northeast Quarter to the northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter found per record witness; thence south 01 degrees 22 minutes 38 seconds west, 2486.54 feet along the east line of said Southeast Quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake; thence south 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west 1510.00 feet parallel with the south line of said Southeast Quarter; thence south 01 degrees 22 minutes 38 seconds west, 150.00 feet parallel with the east line of said Southeast Quarter to the place of beginning.

Containing 200.11 acres more or less

Subject to: The right-of-way of County Road 1200 South, a legal open drain known as the "Loblolley" and "Rayne-Lawrence" and rights-of-way and easements of record.

01-0009-30 (Smith Tract)

Part of the southwest quarter of Section thirty-one (31), Township twenty-five (25) north, Range fourteen (14) east, Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana described as follows:

Starting at the southeast corner of said southwest quarter found per record witness; thence north 01 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds east, (Assumed and the basis for these bearings), 1318.61 feet along the east line of said southwest quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of said southwest quarter which shall be the place of beginning; thence north 89 degrees 55 minutes 23 seconds west, 1311.83 feet along the south line of the northeast quarter of said southwest quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of said southwest quarter; thence north 66 degrees 56 minutes 58 seconds east, 1438.21 feet along to a 5/8" rebar stake on the east line of said southwest quarter, thence south 01 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds west, 565.00 feet along said east line to the place of beginning.

Containing 8.5 acres more or less.

Subject to: The right-of-way of a legal open drain known as "Loblolly" and rights-of-way and easements of record.

All as shown by Stody Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on plat of survey number 1657.

01-0015-30

Parcel 1 – Keller Tract

A part of the West Half of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 25 North, Range 14 East, Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana, described as follows:

Beginning at a 5/8 inch rebar on the West line of the West Half of the East half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 25 North, Range 14 East, said rebar being South 00 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds East 363.78 feet (assumed bearing) from a spike at the Northwest corner of said Half-Half-Quarter Section; thence North 88 degrees 34 minutes 30 seconds East 655.65 feet parallel with the North line of said Half-Half-Quarter Section to a 5/8 inch rebar on the East line thereof; thence South 00 degrees 18 minutes 08 seconds East 2269.82 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar at the Southeast corner of said Half-Half-Quarter Section; thence South 88 degrees 32 minutes 51 seconds West 659.62 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar at the Southwest corner of said Half-Half-Quarter Section; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds West 2270.17 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 34.24 acres, more or less, and subject to a drainage easement along the East side, to mutual drains, and to all easements of record.

Said Parcel 1 being subject to a Perpetual Easement over the above described real estate granted by Harold J. Keller to United States of America, No. 66-52KY-8-8821 by Warranty Easement Deed dated December 18, 2008 and recorded December 22, 2008 in Instrument 2008004941, pages 1-11 of the records of Adams County, Indiana.

Parcel 2 – Smith Tract

Part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 25 North, Range 14 East of the Second Principal Meridian, Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a 3/8" steel rebar at the Southeast corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 00 degrees 39 minutes 09 seconds West (GPS Grid bearing and basis of bearings to follow), a distance of 1883.61 feet along the East line of said Southwest Quarter to a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Miller Firm #0095" identification cap set on the North line of an existing 8.50 acre tract described in Deed Record 260, Page 81 in the Office of the Recorder of Adams County, Indiana, said point also being the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described tract; thence South 65 degrees 07 minutes 32 seconds West, a distance of 1438.23 feet along said North line to a point on the West line of the East Half of said Southwest Quarter, said point being referenced by a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Hoehn"

identification cap found 0.37 feet East and 0.28 feet North; thence North 00 degrees 49 minutes 35 seconds West, a distance of 787.00 feet along said West line to a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Miller Firm #0095" identification cap set; thence North 79 degrees 16 minutes 16 seconds East, a distance of 662.00 feet to a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Miller Firm #0095" identification cap set; thence North 86 degrees 33 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 663.00 feet to a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Miller Firm #0095" identification cap set on the East line of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 00 degrees 39 minutes 09 seconds East, a distance of 345.00 feet along said East line to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 17.71 acres, more or less. Subject to the right-of-way of the Loblolley Legal Open Drain and subject to easements of record.

Said Parcel II being subject to a Perpetual Easement over the above described real estate granted by Harold D. Smith and Jean E. Smith, husband and wife to United States of America, No. 66-52KY-8-8820 by Warranty Easement Deed dated January 29, 2009 and recorded February 4, 2009 in Instrument 2009000472, pages 1-13 of the records of Adams County, Indiana.

ALSO: a 25' Access Easement

Being part of the Northwest and Southwest Quarters of Section 31, Township 25 North, Range 14 East of the Second Principal Meridian, Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a railroad spike at the Northeast corner of said Northwest Quarter; thence South 88 degrees 08 minutes 50 seconds West, a distance of 931.74 feet along said North line and within the right-of-way of County Road 1100 South to the West line of an existing tract described in Deed Record 211, Page 421 in the Office of the Recorder of Adams County, Indiana, said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described tract; thence South 00 degrees 44 minutes 05 seconds East, a distance of 806.90 feet along said West line to the South line of said tract; thence North 88 degrees 08 minutes 50 seconds East, a distance of 270.00 feet along said South line to the West line of the East Half of said Northwest Quarter; thence South 00 degrees 44 minutes 05 seconds East, a distance of 2254.42 feet and its Southerly extension thereof to the North line of a 17.707 acre tract; thence South 86 degrees 33 minutes 33 seconds West, a distance of 5.03 feet along said North line to a 5/8" steel rebar with a "Miller Firm #0095" identification cap set; thence South 79 degrees 16 minutes 16 seconds West, a distance of 20.28 feet along said North line; thence North 00 degrees 44 minutes 05 seconds West, a distance of 2232.69 feet; thence South 88 degrees 08 minutes 50 seconds West, a distance of 270.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 44 minutes 05 seconds West, a distance of 831.90 feet to the North line of said Northwest Quarter; thence North 88 degrees 08 minutes 50 seconds East, a distance of 25.00 feet along said North line and within said right-of-way of County Road 1100 South to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 1.913 Acres, more or less.

Subject to the right-of-way of County Road 1100 South and subject to easements of record.

Containing in all after said exception 51.95 acres, more or less.

All being subject to all easements, covenants, rights-of-way, and restrictions of record.

01-0007-30

The east half of the northwest quarter of Section Thirty Two (32), Township Twenty Five (25) North, Range Fourteen (14) East, Adams County, Indiana.

Containing by survey: 80.22 acres; subject to all legal easements and rights-of-way:

Also, Commencing at the north quarter of Section Thirty Two (32), Township Twenty Five (25) North, Range Fourteen (14) East, Adams County, Indiana; thence southerly on and upon the west line of the northeast quarter of said Section 32 a distance of 2635.20 feet to the southwest corner of said quarter; thence easterly on and upon the south line of said quarter to the west right-of-way line of said Highway 27; thence northerly along said right of way line to the north line of said quarter; thence westerly on and upon said north line to the place of commencement

Containing by survey: 41 acres, more or less.

01-0010-30 (Bruns Tract)

The following described real estate in Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana, to-wit:

The west half of the northwest quarter of Section thirty-two (32), Township twenty-five (25) north, Range fourteen (14) east, containing eighty (80) acres more or less.

**EXCEPT THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING:**

Commencing at the southwest corner of the west half (1/2) of the northwest quarter (1/4) of Section thirty-two (32), Township twenty-five (25) north, Range fourteen (14) east; thence north to the Lob Ditch; thence northeaster along the meanderings of said ditch to the east line of the west half (1/2) of said northwest quarter (1/4); thence south to the southeast corner of the west half (1/2) of said northwest quarter (1/4); thence west to the place of beginning.

Containing fifty (50) acres more or less in Adams County, Indiana, leaving after said exception twenty-six and ninety-one hundredths (26.91) acres more or less, as shown on a survey by Jerry Lester, registered land surveyor, dated May 13, 1977.

Subject to: all covenants, legally effective easements, right of way, restrictions of record and existing streets and highways.

01-0011-30 (Hart Center Tract)

The following described real estate in Wabash Township, Adams County, Indiana, to-wit:

Part of the southwest quarter of Section twenty-nine (29), Township twenty-five (25) north, Range fourteen (14) east, described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of said southwest quarter, found per record witness; thence north 89 degrees, 44 minutes 03 seconds west (assumed and the bearing basis for these bearings), 659.68 feet along the south line of said southwest quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southwest corner of the east half of the east half of said southwest quarter; thence north 01 degrees, 24 minutes 34 seconds east, 2269 .82 feet along the west line of the east half of the east half of said southwest quarter to a 5/8" rebar stake on the corporation line of the Town of Geneva; thence south 88 degrees, 22 minutes 55 seconds east, 529.70 feet along said corporation line to a 5/8" rebar stake on the west line of the 0.462 acre tract described in Deed Record 236, Page 213; thence south 01 degrees, 18 minutes 30 seconds west. 92.93 feet to a 5/8" rebar stake at the southwest corner of said 0.462 acre tract; thence south 89 degrees, 42 minutes 50 seconds east, 125.90 feet along the south line of said 0.462 acre tract to a 5/8" rebar stake on east line of said southwest quarter; thence south 01 degrees, 18 minutes 30 seconds west, 2164.27 feet along said east line to the Place of Beginning.

containing 33.88 acres more or less.

Subject to the right-of-way of County Road 100 South, a legal drain known as the "Haridson" and all covenants, easements, right-of-ways, and restrictions of record.

All as shown by Stoodly Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on Plat of Survey Number 1658.

Containing a total of 719.23 acres more or less.

The Nature Preserve shall be used, administered, managed, and protected as set forth in the Master Plan for Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve, a copy of which is attached and made a part of these Articles of Dedication. The Nature Preserve shall be further controlled by the General Use Regulations of the Department of Natural Resources, as found in 312 IAC 8, together with subsequent amendments to the Master Plan or Regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of IC 14-31-1 or these Articles of Dedication. The Department of Natural Resources shall not grant nor encumber any estate, interest or right in the Nature Preserve except upon compliance with IC 14-31-1.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the authorized representatives of the parties have affixed their signatures on the respective dates appearing below:

STATE OF INDIANA  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan W. Poynter, Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald P. Hellmich, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel W. Bortner  
Director, Department of Natural Resources

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, Bryan W. Poynter, Chairman, Natural Resources Commission, Daniel W. Bortner Director, Department of Natural Resources, Ronald P. Hellmich, Director, Division of Nature Preserves, Department of Natural Resources, all respectively known by me to be such officers of the Department of Natural Resources, and acknowledged their execution of the foregoing instrument to be their free and voluntary acts and deeds as such officers and for and on behalf of said Commission.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or Type Name)

County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires:

\_\_\_\_\_



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Rokita,  
Attorney General, State of Indiana

Indiana State Land Office Use:

\_\_\_\_\_  
THIS DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:

Ronald P. Hellmich, Attorney at Law, Department of Natural Resources, 402 West Washington Street, Room 267, Indianapolis, IN, 46204

I AFFIRM, UNDER THE PENALTIES FOR PERJURY, THAT I HAVE TAKEN REASONABLE CARE TO REDACT EACH SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IN THIS DOCUMENT, UNLESS REQUIRED BY LAW:

Ronald P. Hellmich, Attorney at Law, Department of Natural Resources, 402 West Washington Street, Room 267, Indianapolis, IN, 46204

RETURN RECORDED INSTRUMENT TO:

Department of Natural Resources  
Nature Preserves Division  
402 West Washington Street, Room W267  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

SEND TAX BILLS AND NOTICES TO:

Department of Natural Resources  
Nature Preserve Division  
402 West Washington Street, Room W267  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## MASTER PLAN FOR LIMBERLOST SWAMP NATURE PRESERVE

The following is hereby adopted as the Master Plan for the Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve, being dedicated as a nature preserve:

1. This Master Plan applies to a nature preserve containing early successional emergent wetlands with upland and floodplain forest. Also present are tree plantings and shrublands that provide mid-successional habitat. It is owned by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and is under the administration of the Division of Nature Preserves (the Division). It is located in Wabash Township in Adams County, and in Bearcreek Township in Jay County, Indiana. A more detailed description is contained in the "Articles of Dedication" for Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve of which this Master Plan is a part and to which it is attached.

The management, custody and use of the Nature Preserve shall be the responsibility of the Division pursuant to the Nature Preserves Act, the Articles of Dedication of the Nature Preserve, and this Master Plan.

The Nature Preserve may be used for all purposes stated in the Nature Preserves Act, but subject to the provisions of this Master Plan. Action required or permitted by this Master Plan may be taken only by the Division, or by parties designated in writing by the Division for particular actions. All development and natural area management on the Nature Preserve shall require the approval of the director of the Division of Nature Preserves.

All provisions of this Master Plan shall be interpreted in the light of the basic intention of this Master Plan that the Nature Preserve shall be managed to maintain and/or restore its natural ecological conditions and be dedicated for the purposes of the Nature Preserves Act and in furtherance of the public policy of the State of Indiana declared by this Act. In the case of this Nature Preserve, the main purpose of the dedication is to preserve and protect the diverse wetland, woodland and natural communities mentioned in paragraph one as well as the state listed plant and animal species which occur within the Nature Preserve.

2. The following developments, structures and facilities may be permitted within the Nature Preserve:
  - a. Boundary markers and boundary fences may be placed as needed around the perimeter. Such developments should be installed with the least possible disturbance to the soil, plants and animals.

- b. Two parking lots of not more than 10,000 square feet each may be established within the Nature Preserve. The site for this lot must be located in a disturbed or formerly disturbed area and may only be installed after a survey has been conducted to ensure that no unique or significant features will be impacted.
  - c. Foot trails, foot bridges, boardwalks, trail markers, interpretive signs, observation sites and ditch or stream crossings may be constructed and maintained after sufficient study is completed to help determine proper placement. Existing trails and roads may be maintained at the discretion of the Division.
  - d. Fire breaks to insure safety during prescribed burning may be established at locations approved by the Division.
  - e. Such other developments, construction or improvements that are 1) approved in writing, by the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, or his designee and 2) are not inconsistent with the intent of this document may be established and maintained.
3. Management activities within the Nature Preserve shall be governed by the following rules:
- a. Excepting water levels may be raised or lowered at the portion in Jay County to establish mud flats for shorebird migration habitat.
  - b. Erosion and soil deposition may be controlled.
  - c. No action shall be taken to alter natural growth or natural features in the Nature Preserve for the purpose of enhancing the beauty, neatness and amenities of the Nature Preserve or any part thereof.
  - d. There shall be no cutting of grass, brush or other vegetation, thinning of trees, removal of dead wood, opening of scenic vistas or planting, except as allowed elsewhere in this Master Plan.
  - e. Trees or branches that constitute a safety hazard to persons on established trails or in any other authorized use areas may be felled but shall be left to decompose naturally. If a large number of trees need to be felled for safety purposes due to catastrophic wind, disease or insect damage, and leaving them to decompose would hinder restoration and natural area management, they may be removed. This shall only be allowed if removing them would create fewer problems than allowing them to decompose in place.
  - f. There shall be no removal or use of any natural material, product or object from the Nature Preserve and there shall be no intentional introduction of any material, product or object into the Preserve except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan.

- g. Appropriate actions may be taken to correct existing conditions within the Nature Preserve which 1) result from direct or indirect human activities and 2) adversely affect the natural features for which the Nature Preserve was dedicated. Such actions should only be undertaken if reasonable assurances exist that said actions will not have unforeseen detrimental effects on the natural communities and species of plants and animals contained within the Nature Preserve.
- h. Species of plants and animals that are considered noxious by State Law, and exotic and aggressive native species which are detrimental to the quality of the Nature Preserve, may be controlled in accordance with State Law. In the case of plants, the control and removal shall be by manual methods (chain saws, brush cutters and hand tools), tractor pulled rotary cutter or similar implement, and/or prescribed burning. Herbicides and biological agents proven to be effective and safe in natural areas management may be used in conjunction with such methods. Except in situations where heavy infestations make this approach impractical, herbicides should only be used if directly applied to cut stumps or to the species to be eradicated. In the case of animals, the control and removal shall be by the most current, acceptable methods, and in accordance with state wildlife regulations.
- i. All fires shall be brought under control as quickly as possible, except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan. After a fire, there shall be no clean-up, fire hazard reduction or replanting except for safety purposes.
- j. Controlled burning shall be permitted only as a properly used tool to maintain and/or restore natural conditions on this Nature Preserve. A portion of the Preserve may be burned for natural community management, as determined by the Division of Nature Preserves. The burning shall be done in accordance with the most current information available on fire management, and shall be done only using the methods and materials specified in a Burning Plan prepared by the Division and approved by the Division of Nature Preserves.
- k. Control of biotic succession by artificial means may be undertaken only if 1) preservation of a particular species is determined by the Administrator, and the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves or his designee, to be consistent with the purpose of the Nature Preserve and/or 2) such control is necessary for the maintenance or restoration of the natural communities for which the Nature Preserve was dedicated. Acceptable control measures are the same as those allowed elsewhere in this Master Plan.
- l. Except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan, native plants and animals may only be introduced, re-introduced or removed from the Nature Preserve under the conditions listed below. All such actions shall require the written permission of the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves. The species to be introduced must constitute a normal component of a natural community contained within the Nature Preserve and its introduction must 1) have a positive

effect on the natural quality and integrity of the Nature Preserve and/or 2) correct a negative effect caused by its absence. In order to minimize the possibility of introducing non-native ecotypes into the area, the source of the organisms to be introduced should, if possible, be from within the Central Till Plain Natural Region, Bluffton Till Plain Section, as defined by Homoya, et al. 1985. The Natural Regions of Indiana. Proc. Indiana Academy of Science. 94: 245-268.

Species of plants or animals which 1) are documented, either by specimens or reliable reports, to have occurred there in the past, or 2) presently occur but are nearly extirpated from the property may be re-introduced into the proper habitat of the Nature Preserve.

In certain cases, the introduction of other species, which are not documented from the Nature Preserve, may be considered on a case by case basis by the Division. Unless adequate justification can be provided to support the introduction of more common species, only those plants and animals may be introduced that 1) are listed as endangered or threatened on a national level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2) are currently being considered for such a listing or 3) represent a population of a species, which is listed as rare, threatened or endangered in Indiana according to the most current listing by the Department of Natural Resources.

Species of plants or animals may be introduced into the disturbed areas of the Preserve for the purpose of re-establishing a native natural community or improving a degraded natural community which exists at the time of the Dedication of this Preserve. Only species which would normally occur in this type of natural community may be introduced. In areas of the preserve where prairies are being restored on former agricultural fields, using seed sources from distances greater than 50 miles will be allowed, with Midwestern genotypes being preferred and seed source identified.

Individual specimens of certain species may be removed from the Nature Preserve for the purpose of re-establishment in a similar community type in another Nature Preserve or in a high quality natural community provided that sufficient individuals of the species are present so that this removal does not endanger the population. Other potential sources should always be explored before allowing a species to be removed from the Preserve. In the case of plants, the removal of seeds for planting elsewhere shall take precedence over the removal of entire plants.

4. Human use of the Nature Preserve shall be governed by the following regulations:

- a. Ingress and egress shall be allowed only at such locations and under such conditions as are established from time to time by the Division.
- b. The primary visitor activities in the Preserve shall be walking, observing and nature study. These activities shall be permitted only to the extent that the Preserve can tolerate them without substantial deterioration.
- c. Visitors without permits for research or collecting activities shall generally be permitted only on trails and may otherwise be restricted in movement when deemed advisable.
- d. Hunting and trapping under the laws of the State of Indiana may be permitted within the Nature Preserve with the written approval of the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves and the Division, in order to control problems of overpopulation of specific animal species. It is understood that this Nature Preserve is intended foremost as a refuge for wildlife and plant communities, and that such action may only be taken when specific animal populations threaten to degrade the natural integrity of the Nature Preserve by substantially decreasing other plant and animal populations.
- e. Scientific and educational activities may be permitted only to the extent that the Preserve can tolerate them without substantial deterioration. Collecting, Research and Educational Permits may be jointly issued only for scientific or educational purposes by the Division.
- f. No structure, easement, right-of-way or other intrusion, development, impairment, disturbance or use which is not permitted by this Master Plan shall be established or be allowed to continue, excepting only the continuance of a use or uses of easements which use existed on the date of this dedication.
- g. The following activities are prohibited, except to the extent permitted in this Master Plan, but their inclusion herein shall not restrict the right of the Division of Nature Preserves to prohibit other activities it considers inconsistent with this Master Plan or the purposes of the Preserve: timbering, grazing by domestic animals, farming, the gathering of firewood or other plant products, mining and quarrying, drilling for oil or gas, the harvesting of fruits, nuts, mushrooms, fur bearers or other animals, the dumping, burying or spreading of garbage, trash or other waste materials, picnicking, camping, lighting of fires, participating in games or sports, the use of vehicles (except for emergency and service uses), horseback riding, hunting, trapping, the removal, disturbance, molestation or defacement of minerals, plants, animals or natural features and the gathering of specimens except by permit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana has adopted this Master Plan as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

ATTEST:

STATE OF INDIANA  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan W. Poynter, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel W. Bortner  
Director, Department of Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald P. Hellmich, Director