

Consideration of the dedication of the Virginia Willow Sinkhole Swamp Nature Preserve in Harrison County

This proposed dedication consists of 153.12 acres within the Mitchell Karst Plain Section of the Highland Rim Natural Region.

Virginia Willow Sinkhole Swamp is a variant of a forested swamp. This community type is limited to southern Indiana due to the tree species living in permanent or semi-permanent water bodies. This results in a unique landscape due to the flooded areas located in depressions formed when underground chambers dissolved in a karst plateau, which provides habitat to southern swamp species.

The Eastern portion of this property contains the State Endangered *Itea virginica* (Virginia willow). *Carex gigantea* (giant sedge), *Myosotis macrosperma* (shortbristle horned beaksedge), and *Triadenum walteri* (Walter's marsh st. johnswort) can also be found within the preserve.

This site has been a dedication target for many years, and the acquisition was made possible with assistance from the Sam Shine Foundation.

It is owned by the DNR's Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves.

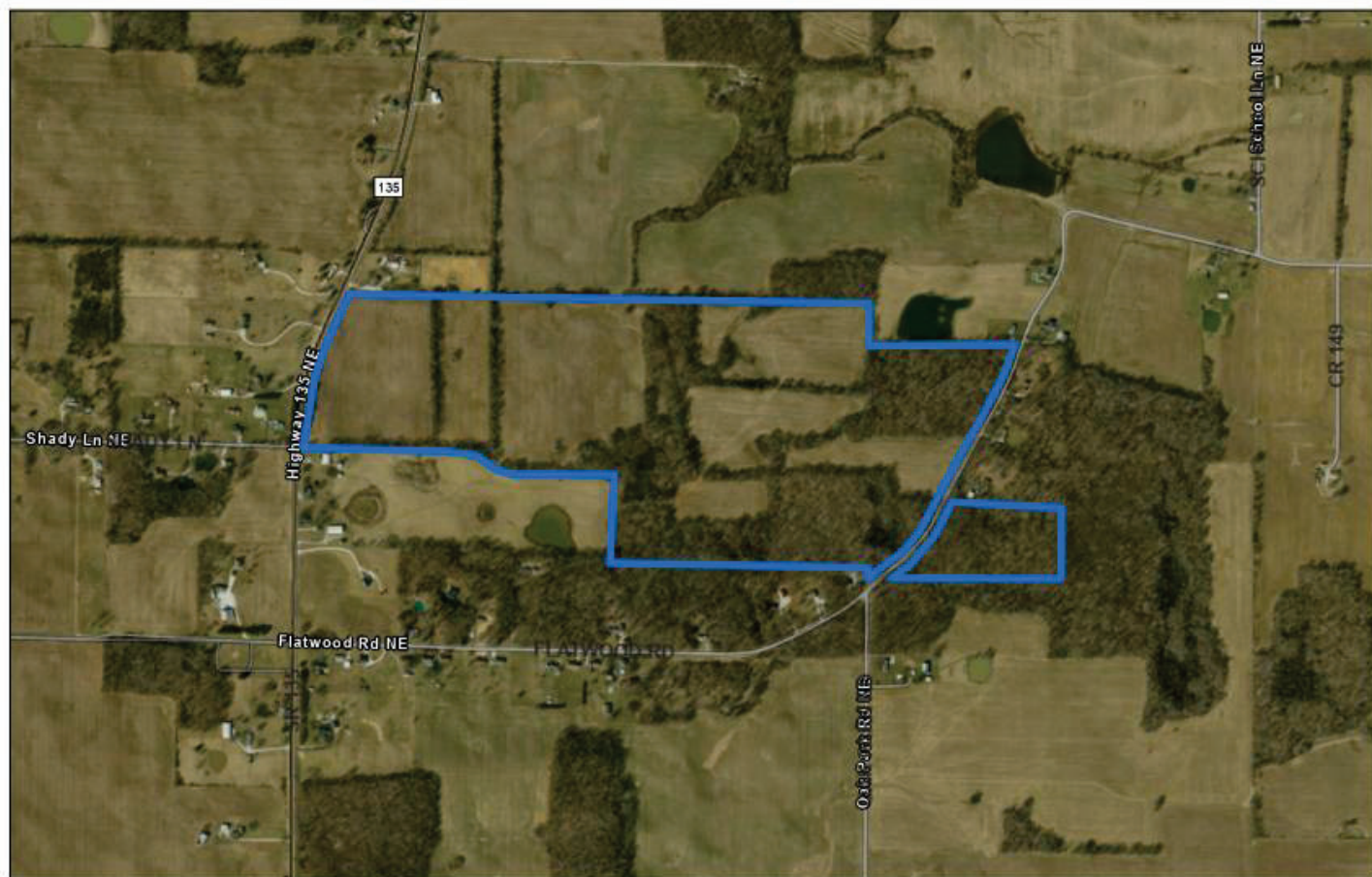
The Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Virginia Willow Sinkhole Swamp Nature Preserve Exhibit A.

Virginia Willow Sinkhole Swamp Exhibit A
153.12 acres
Harrison County

0.5

Miles



July 10, 2026

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves
402 W. Washington St., Rm W267
Indianapolis, IN 46204

State Land Office
Attn: Jill Flachskam
402 W. Washington Street, W296
Indianapolis, IN 46204

REVIEW OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: ARTICLES OF DEDICATION

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 14-31-1-11, the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves proposes the formal dedication of Virginia Willow Sinkhole Swamp Nature Preserve in Harrison County.

The subject property is owned by DNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves and was acquired on July 21, 2025 by two transactions, one from Kristin Ems and one from the Sam Shine Foundation.

The following exhibits relating to the proposed dedication are attached for your review:

- Exhibit "A" legal description
- Narrative and Aerial Map

Please check the legal description for accuracy and appropriate setbacks from existing roads and/or utilities. Please indicate your approval below.

Sincerely,

Matt Wyrick
IDNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves

STATE LAND OFFICE APPROVAL:

Acreage: 153.12


Jill Flachskam
State Land Office Director

Date: 7-13-2026

DIVISION OF LAND ACQUISITION APPROVAL:


Mark Becker
Division of Land Acquisition Director

Date: 7/13/2026

ARTICLES OF DEDICATION FOR VIRGINIA WILLOW SINKHOLE 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 Harrison County, Indiana, to-wit:

Tract 1

Being that 98.556 acre tract of land in the Southeast Quarter of Section 8, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, Morgan Township, Harrison County, Indiana, shown on the Plat of a Boundary Survey certified by John G. Brinkworth, III, professional Surveyor LS21500002 on May 19, 2025, Project Number 25-876 and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at an aluminum monument found marking the common quarter corner of said Section 8 and Section 9; thence along the line dividing said sections, South 01°30'05" West, 262.93 feet to a set 5/8 inch iron pin and Brinkworth cap (hereinafter referred to as a set iron pin), the True Point of Beginning of the land described herein:

Thence continuing along said section line, South 01°30'05" West, (passing a set iron pin at 288.17 feet) a total distance of 1183.53 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 88°36'06" West, 535.16 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 89°15'41" West, 390.03 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 85°52'56" West, 216.98 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 87°52'41" West, 582.09 feet to a found iron pin; thence North 88°37'52" West, 700.81 feet to a set iron pin; thence North 72°21'52" West, 99.72 feet to a set iron pin; thence North 54°25'33" West, 169.99 feet to a set iron pin; thence North 79°03'30" West, 176.66 feet to a set iron pin, thence North 87°21'42" West, 1006.64 feet to a set iron pin in the east right-of-way of Highway 135; thence along said right-of-way the following four (4) calls:

1. North 11°04'30" East, 259.61 feet to a found right-of-way marker;
2. North 10°25'24" East, 219.20 feet to a set iron pin;
3. 332.91 feet along the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 2223.39 feet and a chord bearing North 21°25'45" East, 332.60 feet to a found right-of-way marker;
4. North 25°35'23" East, 285.87 feet to a set iron pin;

Thence South 87°48'06" East, 3535.13 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

Containing 98.556 acres.

EXCEPTING 50 feet beyond the right-of-way of Highway 135 which forms the west boundary of this parcel, leaving 97.29 acres, more or less.

Tract 2

Being that 19.058 acre tract of land in the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, Morgan Township, Harrison County, Indiana, shown on the Plat of a Boundary Survey certified by John G. Brinkworth, III, professional Surveyor LS21500002 on May 19, 2025, Project Number 25-876 and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at an aluminum monument found marking the common quarter corner of said Section 8 and Section 9; thence along the line dividing said sections, South 01°30'05" West, (passing a set 5/8 inch iron pin and Brinkworth cap (hereinafter referred to as a set iron pin) at 262.93 feet) a total distance of 551.10 feet to a set iron pin, the True Point of Beginning of the land description herein:

Thence South 89°04'32" East, (passing a set iron pin at 1014.23 feet) a total distance of 1034.23 feet to Flatwood Road; thence along said road the following three (3) calls;

1. South 21°50'36" West, 355.93 feet;
2. Thence South 32°27'56" West, 247.40 feet;
3. Thence South 28°53'16" West, 587.52 feet;

Thence North 85°35'48" West, (passing a set iron pin at 20 feet) a total distance of 513.57 feet to a set iron pin on said section line; thence along said section line, North 01°30'05" East, (passing a found iron pin at 135.78 feet) a total distance of 1031.14 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

Containing 19.058 acres.

EXCEPTING 50 feet from the centerline of Flatwood Rd, leaving 17.85 acres, more or less.

Subject to a Right-of-Way Easement to Marathon Pipe Line Company recorded 10/29/1976 in Deed Book L-7, Page 165 and all other rights-of-way, easements, covenants, and restrictions of record.

Tract 3

Being that tract of land surveyed by John G. Brinkworth, III on March 21, 2024, Job Number 2024010 and being a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 8, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, Morgan Township, Harrison County, Indiana and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a mag nail found marking the Southeast corner of said Section 8; thence North 01 deg. 30' 05" East, along the section line, 600.55 feet to a set iron pin and cap; thence North 04 deg. 05' 02" East, along a fence, 601/65 feet to a set iron pin and cap in the centerline of an old road bed; thence the following four courses along said centerline of old road bed: South 87 deg. 52' 41" East, 582.09 feet to a set iron pin and cap; thence South 85 deg. 52' 56" East, 216.98 feet to a set iron pin and cap; thence South 89 deg. 15' 41" East, 390.03 feet to a set iron pin and cap; thence South 88 deg. 36' 06" East, 535.16 feet to a set iron pin and cap in said section line; thence leaving said centerline, South 01 deg. 30' 05" West, along said section line, 613.24 feet to the true point of beginning.

Containing 24.072 acres, more or less.

Tract 4

Being that 15.485 acre tract of land in the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, Morgan Township, Harrison County, Indiana, shown on the Plat of a Boundary Survey certified by John G. Brinkworth, III, Professional Surveyor LS21500002 on May 19, 2025. Project Number 25-876 and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at an aluminum monument found marking the common quarter corner of said Section 8 and Section 9; thence along the line dividing said sections, South 01°30'05" West, (passing a set 5/8 inch iron pin and Brinkworth cap (hereinafter referred to as a set iron pin) at 262.93 feet and a found iron pin at 1446.46 feet) a total distance of 1582.24 feet to a set iron pin, the True Point of Beginning of the land described herein:

Thence South 85°35'48" East, (passing a set iron pin at 493.57 feet) a total distance of 1314.61 feet to a set iron pin; thence South 01°26'53" West, 479.14 feet to a set iron pin; thence North 88°36'30" West, 1313.38 feet to a set iron pin on said section line; thence along said section line, North 01°30'05" East, 548.21 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

Containing 15.485 acres.

EXCEPTING 50 feet from the centerline of Flatwood Rd, leaving 13.91 acres, more or less.

Subject to an Easement to Harrison REMC recorded 9/5/2018 as Inst. No. 201804766.

Subject to a Utility Right-of-Way Easement to the Town of Palmyra, Department of Waterworks recorded 5/10/2004 as Inst. No. 200404309

Subject to an Easement to Harrison County REMC recorded 2/22/1979 in Deed Book S-7, Page 672.

Subject to a Right-of-Way Easement to Marathon Pipe Line Company recorded 10/29/1976 in Deed Book L-7, Page 165.

Containing 153.12 acres, more or less, and all being subject to all easements, right-of-way, restrictions and reservations of record.