

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: INDU

Year: 2007

### Vision Statement

Though first proposed for inclusion in the National Park System by NPS Director Stephen Mather in 1916 as "Sand Dunes National Park," Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was not authorized until 1966. The National Lakeshore runs for nearly 15 miles along southern Lake Michigan and is some 50 miles from downtown Chicago, Illinois. The Park contains over 15,000 acres, and is visited annually by over 2 million visitors. Miles of beaches, sand dunes, bogs, wetlands, woodland forests, an 1830s French Canadian homestead, and a working 1900 era farm combine to make the National Lakeshore a unique setting for studying humans and their impact on the environment. Dr. Henry Cowles, also known as the father of ecology, conducted his landmark ecological studies in the Indiana Dunes. INDU ranks seventh in native plant diversity among the 391 units in the National Park System; there are 1,418 vascular plant species within park boundaries of which more than 90 are on the State of Indiana's threatened or endangered list. The National Lakeshore anticipates increased resources in FY '08 in the form of additional base funding and seasonal staff that will enable the park to provide more educational programs, resource protection operations and better maintenance of park facilities.

With its close proximity to the third largest metropolitan area in the nation Indiana Dunes has a long and extensive history of creating and nurturing formal partnerships with over a dozen different organizations, each with a similar mission and each with the capacity to further enable the National Lakeshore to maximize its resources and provide services to an array of different user groups. In addition to local, state and federal partnerships the National Lakeshore also is involved in an international sister park relationship with Kampinoski National Park of Poland and along with the Pacific West and Intermountain Regions are working to develop an international exhibit on bison using funds raised by Dominican University of California.

The vision for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is to preserve the unique ecological community within the confines of residential and industrial activity in a fashion that species diversity is enhanced and invasive species eliminated. In addition, the park strives to provide superb educational and recreation opportunities to its visitors, many of whom reside in the Chicago metropolitan area and are likely to make this their only visit to a unit of the National Park System.

### Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Garry M. Traynham, Acting Superintendent

Site: INDU

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Development of 3.4 miles of hike Bike trail will provide a safe and inspiring recreation opportunity for urban residents

Rehabilitation of the historic Good Fellow Lodge will provide a safe and accessible venue for students of the Good Fellow environmental Learning Center as well as other park partners.

Development of Exhibits at the new Dorothy Bluell Memorial Visitor Center will educate and inspire visitor to see more than the beaches but to explore the trails and historic sites within the park.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: INDU

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

By partnering with the Historic Landmark Foundation of Indiana Inc. a shared effort to raise the needed funding to rehabilitate the historic Camp Good fellow Lodge will serve as a positive effort for the surrounding communities - many of whose resident's attended the site in the 1940's and 1950's.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: INDU

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Developing methods of controlling invasive species within the park would provide the least impactive techniques for both public and private sector use to control exotic species.

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Site: INDU

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Development of Exhibits at the new Dorothy Bluell Memorial Visitor Center will educate students on the impact that they have on the land and how they can reduce those impacts.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: INDU

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Development of Exhibits at the new Dorothy Bluell Memorial Visitor Center will educate visitors on the impact that they have on the land and how they can reduce those impacts.

Developing methods of controlling invasive species within the park would provide the least impactful techniques for both public and private sector use to control exotic species.

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Site: INDU

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Development of Exhibits at the new Dorothy Bluell Memorial Visitor Center, a facility built by Porter County and shared through a lease agreement with the NPS, will educate visitors on the opportunities found within the units of the National Park System.

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Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Development of exhibits at the new joint visitor center will provide information to an increased audience on the availability of programs provided by the national lakeshore staff and partners.

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Site: INDU

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Development of high tech exhibits at the new Dorothy Bluell Memorial Visitor Center to educate visitors on environmental principals and the national park system.

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Site: INDU

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Development of 3.4 miles of hike Bike trail will provide a safe recreational opportunity for urban residents and visitors to the park and link the park's trail system to the regional system spanning three counties and extending from the Illinois state line to the Michigan line.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: INDU

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By partnering with the Historic Landmark Foundation of Indiana Inc. a shared effort to raise the needed funding to rehabilitate the historic Camp Good fellow Lodge will serve as a positive effort for the surrounding communities.

Development of a travelling exhibit on bison as part of international sister park relationship with Kampinoski National Park of Poland and along with the Pacific West and Intermountain Regions are working to develop an international exhibit on bison using funds raised by Dominican University of California.

Having partnered with Porter County in the construction of a joint visitor center the development of exhibits for this new facility will showcase the programs of all the stakeholders to more than 300,000 annually.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS