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Preface

The Chellberg Farm has been adaptively restored to the period of ownership by the Chellberg family, circa 1900. As such the farm presents a splendid stage for environmental education services, linking the area's pioneer past with the suburban present. The primary theme at the site is human land use and its effects on the environment. In its rural, agricultural setting, the Chellberg Farm presents a sublime link between the Indian—trapper era, demonstrated at the Bailly Homestead, and the present Industrial era which is evidenced in other areas in the park near power plants and steel mills. By utilizing the Chellberg Farm, itself carved from original Bailly lands, we can offer park visitors an historical perspective in the evolution of human land use in northwestern Indiana.

The potential also exists here to educate the public in energy efficiency and conservation, concepts that were the normal way of life on a 19th—Century farm. Wind energy can be demonstrated with the farm's wind mill; solar energy, demonstrated by growing crops which fed animals and people; conservation and recycling as shown in crop rotation and the use of animal waste for manure.

Finally, the farm offers the opportunity to invite visitors to have fun exploring a late 19th—Century rural environment. For those who come from urban settings, this may be their first contact with farm life; for older folks, the Chellberg Farm offers an opportunity to remember the way it was.

This plan is arranged by area of consideration for purposes of reader convenience. The following are discussed within each topic: (1) the historical perspective; (2) current status; and (3) the situation we seek to attain at Chellberg Farm in the near future. At the end of the plan are a series of summarized recommendations which will implement progressing from the present situation to future goals over the next five years.

CHELLBERG FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN

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PART 1. INTRODUCTION

This study describes the crops, livestock and farmstead on a typical family farm, ca.1900, appropriate to the adaptively restored Chellberg Farm site operated by the National Park Service, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The study specifies practices to follow in (1) crop cultivation; (2) housing, pasturing and feeding livestock; and (3) maintaining a yard, garden and orchard.

The recommendations are intended to be practical. They build on existing resources, and take into account the site's carrying capacity.

Initial emphasis is on simple changes which are relatively easy to make, e.g., controlling the acquisition of "period" equipment and tools used on the farm; assuring that the period equipment scattered around the farm, is displayed in an unobtrusive and orderly way. Alleviating the intrusive effects of modern elements such as motor vehicle parking and use, plastic containers, nylon feed bags, and picnic tables is critical to the successful interpretation of this period farm.

These recommendations should also be seen as ways to maintain and expand existing levels of visitor participation—letting people gather eggs, feed animals, husk corn, do garden work, pick fruits and vegetables, plant crops and participate in harvesting crops.

Appropriate participation by local groups in the recommended activities will enable the Park Service to keep development and operations costs manageable, and to strengthen ties within the community. This is currently being done with volunteers and senior citizens who garden at Chellberg Farm, and other groups. It could be extended to interest groups and associations, such as the 4-H Groups and Future Farmers of America. Involvements of these kind must be closely overseen to insure that participants understand the period farm concept, and the need to use materials, tools, and practices that fit.

1.1 Objectives

Chellberg farm will represent a typical turn—of—the century family farm. Its particular background will be considered in its development and operation, especially its long—time ownership by the Chellbergs, a pioneer Swedish immigrant family. This design will be adapted to the context:

The climate, topography and soils of Northwestern Indiana and Porter County area in particular.

A farm representative of those built in the area around the turn of the century. Where appropriate, it will interpret the ethnic aspects of farm development in this area. The subject farm was constructed over a period of years by the Chellberg family beginning in 1874 and encompassed 80 acres

The farm is especially important in its environmental education function and is a principal part of the interpretive program

Programs and presentations at the farm serve a diverse audience, including school children, special populations, senior citizens and the general public.

The National Park Service intent at Chellberg Farm is to develop an interpretive model which displays the best of American husbandry, good resource management and conservation practices.

1.2 Site Overview

Topography: The farm site is located in the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 27 and the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 37 North, Range 6 West, Second Principal Meridian, Porter County, Indiana. (See Area Map in Appendix A.)

The area is marked by river terraces cut by ravines. It has marshlands, open field, meadow, and deciduous forest ecosystems

Climate: Annual precipitation is 35—40 inches and is spread throughout the entire year. The growing season is approximately 180 days, with the last spring frost coming around April 20th and the first fall freeze around the 20th of October. Winds are usually westerly and variable. There is sufficient wind and elevation to allow the use of a windmill to pump water. Plant hardiness requirements should be based on ability to tolerate minimum winter temperature of 10 to 15 degrees F. The humidity is frequently high

Land Use: The farm consists of 80 acres. Three—fourths of this is woodland (including the sugar bush) and wildlife area

The primary farming area consists of 24 acres which are used as follows:

Cropland: 16.5 acres ——— concentrated on the flat north and south of the house and with a small plot east of the main parking area.

Pasture: 2 acres — east and north of the animal shelters and barn. The pasture on the flat is now used for hay.

Orchard: 1.5 acres — located south of the house.

Farmstead: 3.5 acres — farmhouse, nine outbuildings for housing animals, storing feed, tools etc.

Soils: The soils at the farm on the surface are clay loam; the subsoil is silty clay loam with some sandy clay loam.

1.3 Interpretive Themes

The farm is to represent aspects of a farming operation ca. 1900, adapted to the soils and climate of Northwestern Indiana and the resources at the site.

Original historic structures and artifacts are limited resources; with proper care they can add information, enjoyment, perspective and richness to our lives.

Farmers harvested diverse resources from their land, but were also interdependent within overlapping social, commercial, political and transportation networks.

Immigrants from Sweden, the Chellberg's encountered and absorbed a new culture. This mix of cultures is evident in the development and operation of their farm.

The Chellberg's changed the land they lived on; likewise, the area's geological and biological cycles shaped the life of the farm. Beech, maple, oak and hickory forests made way for fields. Steel plows cut and turned the earth. Crops were planted, harvested and rotated. Buildings made of the surrounding forest housed the immigrant Chellbergs and their livestock. Eighty acres of glacial moraine climax forest became the Chellberg Farm.

The Chellberg farm, as did most turn of the century farms, ran on renewable energy sources.

1.4 Interpretive Objectives

Provide visitors with an understanding and thereby, an appreciation of the importance of the Calumet Region to the transportation, communication, and settlement history of the Midwest.

Protect the natural and cultural resources set aside for preservation through interpretation of their value to the public and through presence of identifiable National Park Service personnel.

Reduce visitor impact on park resources by conveying management policy in interpretive media, control of access, personal services, and circulation control through trail and exhibit placement.

Increase visitors' understanding of the role of immigration and small farms in the history of the Calumet Region.

Provide visitors the means to visualize farm life and activities at the turn of the century, and how this farm fits into larger contexts.

Provide access to previously underrepresented groups such as the physically challenged, ethnic minorities, and the economically disadvantaged.

Compare the variety of renewable energy sources that ran this farm 90 years ago with today's energy alternatives.