



## Dorothy R. Buell 1886-1977 *Passion for the Dunes*

*“We are prepared to spend the rest of our lives if necessary to save the dunes.”*

*Dorothy R. Buell*



Dorothy Buell directed her enthusiasm, determination, and fearlessness toward a single goal—saving the Indiana dunes! And for fourteen arduous years, she fought under her famous quote: “We are prepared to spend the rest of our lives if necessary to save the dunes.” She raised funds, recruited volunteers, obtained public support, and worked persistently to protect the dunes from bulldozers. Famous advocates such as Dr. Rueben Strong (Chicago Conservation Council President) and U.S. Senator (Illinois) Paul H. Douglas battled alongside her.



*Dorothy Buell shares one of her many awards with friends.*

## Saving the Dunes

Mrs. Buell’s ability to enlist the help of others and her refusal to accept “no” for an answer started the momentum that brought about our Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. She received many awards and recognition for her efforts to save this unique habitat. She was named leading newsworthy woman in Indiana. Mrs. Buell, known for her sense of humor, once remarked that she hadn’t known what she was getting into and she didn’t know how to quit!

## The Save the Dunes Council



*Save the Dunes Conservation Fund volunteers participate in a Marquette Park restoration project. (Photo by Tom Anderson, courtesy of Save the Dunes Council.)*

In 1952, Mrs. Buell founded the Save the Dunes Council for the purpose of preserving the remaining dunes as additions to the existing, but small, Indiana Dunes State Park. Through the years, this original plan was modified to accommodate changing times. Today, the Save the Dunes Council continues to be active; their mission is to “preserve, protect and restore the Indiana Dunes and all natural resources in Northwest Indiana’s Lake Michigan Watershed for an enhanced quality of life.”

## Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center



*This visitor center is located on the southeast corner of Highway 20 and Indiana 49.*

Mrs. Buell lived to see the 1966 passage of legislation authorizing Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; and in 1972, she was present at the formal dedication of the park she had worked so hard to create. Congress commemorated her in 1992 by naming the national lakeshore’s visitor center the “Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.” Today, the visitor center is shared with Indiana Dunes State Park and the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) or call 219-926-7561, extension 225.