



Photo credit: Mike Molnar

Shorelines

A Publication of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Program Update - Coordination Opportunities Abound:

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program continues to improve regional coordination into 2008. Fall 2007 saw program staff attend a variety of meetings across the region and the country. Staff attended the annual Great Lakes Coastal Program meeting in October; journeying to Erie, Pennsylvania for three days of informative meetings and great experiences. Next year the meeting rotates to New York and we look forward to visiting our Easternmost Great Lakes' sister program. In late October Mike Molnar attended the Fall meeting of the Coastal States Organization. This meeting was held in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Topics at this meeting were varied but included a follow up discussion on the future of the Coastal Zone Management Act. We expect some significant changes to the reauthorized CZMA and our input at this stage is important. December brought a coordination meeting between Great Lakes Coastal programs and the Great Lakes Commission. As the Commission is a coordinating and advocacy body, the Coastal programs and Commission staff meet periodically to share ideas and form regional priorities. This meeting focused on the Annual Great Lakes Day in Washington DC; which will occur in conjunction with a Great Lakes Commission meeting for the first time ever in February. The Coastal Program is currently developing informational materials to share with the Indiana Congressional delegation as part of Great Lakes Day. We are optimistic that through improved coordination and information sharing we can continue to improve coastal management both within the Great Lakes and at the Federal level.



Photo credit: Ken Smith, NY CZM

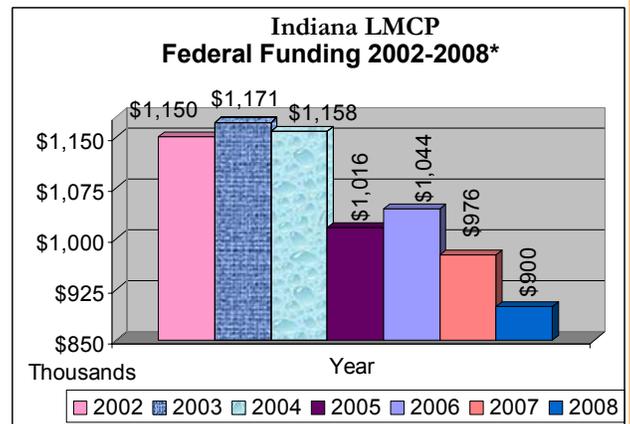
Shorelines is issued quarterly by the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. To suggest an idea for an article, send an email to coastal@dnr.in.gov

Please visit our website at www.IN.gov/dnr/lakemich

Mike Molnar, Program Manager
mmolnar@dnr.IN.gov
 Ph:317-233-0132
 Jenny Orsburn, Program Specialist,
jorsburn@dnr.IN.gov
 Ph:219-983-9912
 Joe Exl, Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator,
jexl@dnr.IN.gov
 Ph: 219-921-0863
 Jenni Newman, Program Assistant,
jnewman@dnr.IN.gov
 Ph: 317-234-3985

Funding Update - Interesting Year Ahead:

The Coastal Program anticipates funding cuts at both the State and Federal level in 2008. This continues the trend of decreased funding seen over the past three years. In 2005 when the Coastal Program received dedicated State funding for the first time the budgets were \$142,000 State and \$1.016 M Federal respectively. The State budget has been reduced over time due to budget reserves and reversions and the Federal reduced due to continuing resolutions and domestic discretionary funding cuts. We anticipate funding in 2008 at \$127,000 and \$900,000 State and Federal respectively (NOAA has not set final Federal funding levels as of yet and this number is estimated based upon prior year reductions.)



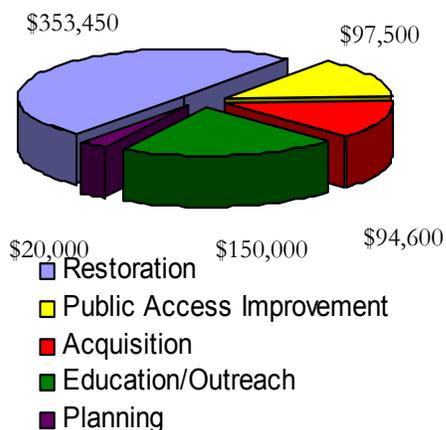
2008 Grants Update:

The Coastal Grants program will forward 15 applications for the 2008 Funding Cycle on to NOAA for Federal review and approval. Of the 15 applications: nine are habitat restoration projects, two are public access improvements, two are education and outreach projects, and there are one planning and land acquisition projects respectively.

The total request in federal funds is \$715,550 with a match contribution of \$776,500. The 15 applications successfully navigated the Grants Pre-Proposal process, with Coastal Advisory Board recommendations, as well as the Full Application portion, with scoring and ranking from the Technical Review Team. The program originally received 27 projects in the pre-proposal phase making this the most competitive year for funding. The DNR Director, Rob Carter, gave final State approval of the following projects:

Lake County Parks and Recreation Department	
Gary Metal Acquisition at Oak Ridge Prairie	\$94,600
Beaver Dam Wetland Restoration	\$97,500
Lake County Solid Waste Management District	
Habitat Restoration Learning Center and Demonstration Project	\$60,000
Portage Parks and Recreation Department	
Salt Creek Restoration Project	\$100,000
Portage Outdoor Science Program	\$50,000
City of Michigan City	
Trail Creek Forks	\$37,500
Gary Parks and Recreation Department	
City of Gary Shoreline Management Plan	\$20,000
Merrillville Parks and Recreation Department	
Pruzin Nature Center Upland Forest Restoration Project	\$30,000
Department of Natural Resources-Division of Nature Preserves	
Cressmoor Prairie Woody Reduction	\$15,000
Calumet Prairie Invasive Shrub Control	\$18,750
Pine Station-Clark Road Restoration	\$45,000
Prairie and Marsh Restoration, Norco Tract, Hoosier Prairie	\$25,000
Department of Natural Resources-Division of State Parks and Reservoirs	
Indiana Dunes State Park Biodiversity Restoration	\$7,200
Noel's Prairie South Biodiversity Restoration	\$15,000
History Comes Alive: Interpreting the Dunes Past and Present	\$100,000

2008 Recommended Projects by Category

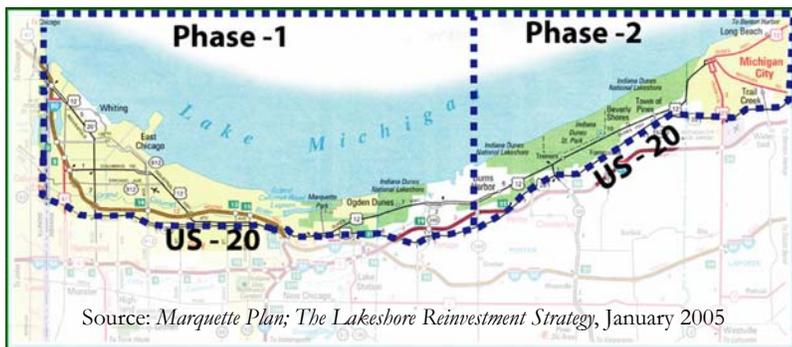


Marquette Plan Creates Vision for Future:

Phase I

In 2004, five major northwest Indiana communities, joined together, with support from Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program, to create a reinvestment strategy for 21 of the 45 miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline. Indiana Congressman Peter Visclosky, when first elected to Congress in 1985, proposed this strategy in a paper he wrote "The Marquette Project." He envisioned reclamation of the heavily industrialized shoreline for public use as he proposed 75% of Northwest Indiana's lakeshore be made available to the public.

Now decades later, the first phase of the Marquette Plan is complete. The spirit of Visclosky's vision still exists, as these communities united around three guiding principles: 75% of the lakeshore from the Illinois state line to the eastern boundary of Portage should be open for free public use, new development projects directly on the lakefront should have a minimum setback of at least 200 feet and a continuous biking and walking trail will connect lakefront communities. The predominately industrial and urbanized cities of Portage, Gary, East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting all participated in this momentous planning effort. These communities saw an opportunity to prepare for industry's changing landscape, and "create a livable lakefront." As technologies improve, large tracts of land once secured for industrial expansion are no longer needed, and could be turned into public parkland. The challenge of



this study was to attract new economic development, retail and job opportunities, while increasing public access to Lake Michigan and protecting valuable natural resources. The result of numerous public meetings and stakeholder interviews was a list of catalytic projects, planning initiatives and non-site specific initiatives. The Plan identifies potential Greenspace connections, transit oriented development and industrial infrastructure consolidation.

Successes

In 2007, the City of Portage was the first partner to put the plan into action through the creation of the Portage Northside Plan. This plan identifies residential, commercial and recreational opportunities for the northern portion of Portage. (cont. page 3)

(cont. from page 2: Marquette) The culmination of this plan is the creation of Portage's Lakefront Park, set to open in 2008. This 66-acre beachfront parcel was once owned by Midwest Steel, after its clean up, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore purchased the parcel in 2004. Through a cooperative agreement, Portage will develop and maintain a city beach on National Park Service property. The site will also include an indoor pavilion and classroom.

The first phase of the Marquette Plan has since received two distinguished awards: an Honor Award in Planning and Analysis from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the coveted Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning from the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council.

Phase II

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), with support from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, continued the effort in 2007. NIRPC, a Metropolitan Planning Organization, is tasked to conduct traffic planning as well as identify economic and environmental opportunities for northwest Indiana. Marquette Plan "Phase II" covers the portion of Indiana's shoreline from the City of Portage to the Michigan state line. While the same core principles carry over from the first phase, two major themes have surfaced for this vision: raising the bar and finding

balance between visitors and residents, all the while tying together community, commerce and conservation. The second phase of the Marquette Plan represents vastly different land uses from those in the first phase of the Marquette Plan. The area is predominately National Lakeshore, a State Park and smaller lakefront communities. Michigan City represents the largest community; as opposed to heavily urbanized and industrial areas as in Phase I. Citizens and stakeholders identified increased beach access, water quality improvements, pedestrian and bike friendly roads and communities, as well as infrastructure improvements and more cohesive and conservation minded development as some of the items they would want to see improve as a result of this plan.

The key to these plans, both Marquette Plan "Phase I" and "Phase II," is to see the region as a whole, as one region. The culmination of these two planning efforts will be the release of a poster depicting the Marquette Plan's vision for the entire 45 miles of Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline and an ongoing vision that will continue to unite the region.

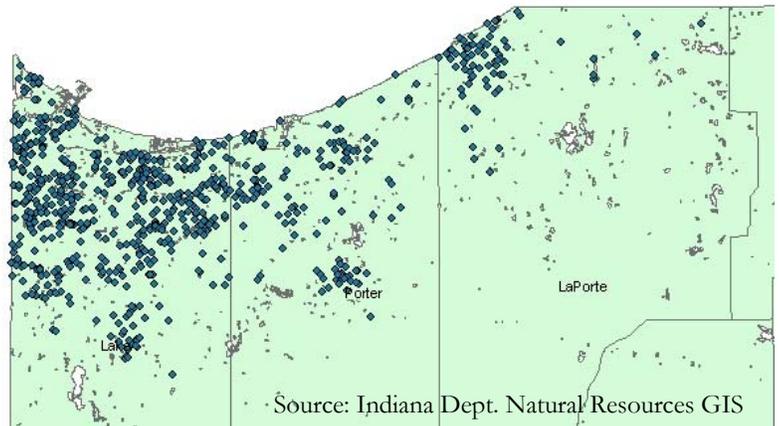
Additional Information for Phase II:

<http://www.nirpc.org/MP2PCTP/MP2PCTP.htm>

Section 309 Public Access Project - Assessing Recreation Opportunities:

In 2005 the LMCP undertook the Section 309 Program Assessment and Strategy project. This project examines the strength of the program in nine major areas and develops implementation strategies to address any perceived weaknesses. These implementation strategies must result in long term program improvement. The first project to be implemented involves Public Access. The Assessment revealed that the program lacked adequate data regarding public access sites and the program lacks an adequate public access management plan. The implementation strategy set forth a three part process to improve this program component. The process entails the following three phases: 1) review and update the facilities inventory database, 2) conduct a public access needs assessment, and 3) develop a public access management plan. It is important to note that public access site as defined by this project is: "all sites that provide public access to coastal resources. Can comprise of Federal, State, Local government, owned properties or properties with a public interest." LMCP staff worked with staff from the DNR

NW Indiana Public Access Facilities



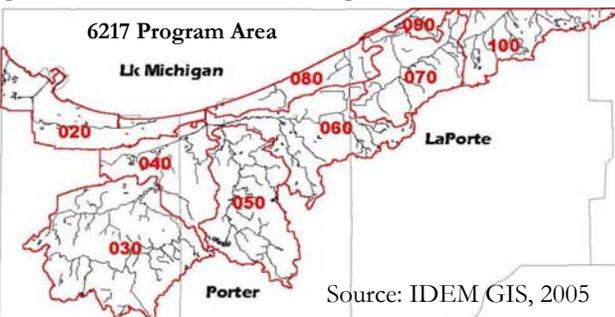
Division of Outdoor Recreation to craft a scope of services to address the first phase – facilities inventory database update. This project is currently in the contract signature process and will commence upon final signature. The anticipated end date for the first phase is October 2008. The needs assessment scope of services will be developed and bid accordingly.

Indiana Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control (6217) - Program Update:

Indiana moved one step closer to receiving federal approval of the 6217 Program. On November 5, 2007, NOAA and EPA posted the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding Document, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact on Approval for Indiana's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in the Federal Register. After a 30-day Federal public comment period, in which no comments were received, the 6217 Program now only awaits the final signatory process by NOAA and EPA for "conditional approval".

What does "Conditional Approval" Mean?

The 6217 Program document which was submitted to NOAA and EPA for review in 2005 outlines the existing programs and enforceable authorities that Indiana will use to implement the program. NOAA and EPA can either conditionally or fully approve the program based on this information. If a state does not fully meet each of the federal requirements) which are outlined in the 6217(g) guidance, the state has conditions placed (cont. Page 4)



(cont. from page 3: 6217) upon it which must be met to obtain full approval. Copies of the Findings and Environmental Assessment documents highlighting the conditions for full program approval are posted to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/news/index.html>

Next Steps

The next step is to develop programs in conformity with the 6217(g) guidance. We've been able to take a proactive stance in this regard by coordinating with NOAA and EPA prior to official "conditional approval". A prime example is the development of the Indiana Clean Marina Program which will be unveiled in time for this year's boating season. This year we also plan on developing a 15-year strategy, 5-year implementation plan (15/5 Plan) that guides our efforts as we move the program towards full approval.

Contact Joe Exl, Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator for more information about the 6217 Program: jexl@dnr.in.gov or 219-921-0863.

"When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come." – Leonardo da Vinci

Calendar of Events

Coastal Advisory Board Meetings: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/board/index.html> - All meetings 6:15 PM Central Time

January 16, 2008 – Michigan City Senior Center, Two on the Lake, Michigan City, Indiana

April 16, 2008 – Lake County

July 16, 2008 – Porter County

NIRPC Environmental Management Planning Committee – All meetings at: 6100 Southport Rd., Portage, Indiana

February 7, 2008 9:00 AM CST

March 6, 2008 9:00 AM CST

April 3, 2008 9:00 AM CST

May 1, 2008 9:00 AM CST

Indiana Lake Michigan Coast Week

September 7-13, 2008

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

CARE Committee Public Meetings - Contact person Danielle Barnett - danibarnett@idem.in.gov

February 26, 2008 - 5:30-7:00 PM CST - Indiana University Northwest Library, Conference Rooms A & B. Address is 3400 Broadway - Gary, Indiana 46408

Photo Credit: Mike Molnar

State Funding Deadlines:

Lake and River Enhancement Program Grant - <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/lare/>

Aquatic Vegetation Management Project Applications - Due by January 15, 2008

Biological and Engineering and Watershed Land Treatment Project Applications - Due by January 31, 2008

Recreational Trails Program Grant - <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/grants/rtp.html>

Applications posted to website February 1, 2008

Applications due May 1, 2008

The purpose of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program is to enhance the State's role in planning for and managing natural and cultural resources in the coastal region and to support partnerships between federal, state and local agencies and organizations.

Additional Information Regarding the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and Upcoming Events can be found at: www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich

