



**Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program  
2006 Funding Cycle Project Summaries**

**LAND ACQUISITION**

**Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves**

**Project Title: Hobart Heritage Prairie**

**Project Type: Natural Area Preservation**

**Federal Request: \$65,000**

**Local Share: \$65,000**

Hobart Heritage Prairie is considered the ecological heart of a 115 acre corridor of wildlands south of Ridge Road and is the key connection to 100 acres on the north side, which includes the 20 acre Liverpool State Nature Preserve. In addition, the parcel is close to areas protected by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (the 280 acre Hobart Prairie Grove) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (McCloskey Savanna State Nature Preserve.)

The native plants on this prairie give it a quality rating which is higher than 99.5% of the land in the Chicago region. There are 152 native plant species growing on the Hobart Heritage Prairie. Among the rare plants are New Jersey tea, ragged fringed orchid, ladies-tresses orchid, smooth blue aster, Sullivant's milkweed, tall green milkweed, rose gentian, purple milkweed, and marsh wild timothy. Downy gentian, prairie gray sedge, and veiny pea are on Indiana's threatened list.

The many wetlands in the Hobart Heritage Prairie provide habitat for the northern leopard frog. The moist soil and small ponds are also important to the blue-spotted salamander. Both of these species are of special concern in Indiana.

The land has two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school as neighbors, providing a wonderful environmental education opportunity. Purchase of this property will secure this opportunity.

**LOW COST CONSTRUCTION**

**Applicant: Town of Dune Acres, IN**

**Project Title: Restoration of Dune Acres Natural Areas**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$3,000**

**Local Share: \$3,000**

This proposal outlines a program for eradicating invasive, non-native plant species from the natural areas of the town of Dune Acres. Dune Acres is situated on the shore of Lake Michigan, and abuts the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on the south and west. Of the town's 1310 acres, approximately 270 acres are designated as "Town Parks" which are undeveloped natural areas including high dunes, pannes, oak savannas, and wetlands. These natural areas contain a large number of important and, in some cases, rare plant species. However, they also harbor increasing numbers of invasive, non-native species which not only threaten to crowd out native species within these town parks, but also threaten to become seed sources for the dissemination of non-native species into adjacent National Lakeshore lands. This project aims to eliminate non-native species from 16.5 acres of Dune Acres town parks through an aggressive program of eradication, utilizing cutting, pulling and herbiciding the non-native species. The project also includes planting prairie seeds in the Lupine Lane Park.

Key targets for this program include: Oriental bittersweet, Tartarian honeysuckle, Autumn olive, barberry, multiflora rose, reed canary grass and garlic mustard. The effectiveness of the intervention will be documented by regularly monitoring of invasive plant species, pre-and post-treatment photographs, and monitoring the type and number of native species. The program will also include a series of educational activities, including guided tours of the target areas, articles in the town newspaper, and presentations to town residents. The program will be

managed by a professional botanist with additional assistance from volunteers from the community.

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**Applicant: City of Michigan City, IN**

**Project Title: Pullman Forest**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$14,802.50**

**Local Share: \$16,696.50**

The location of this project is a 2-acre field at the base of the large NIPSCO water-cooling tower along U.S. 12 in Michigan City across the street from Pullman Park at the corner of Willard Avenue and 4th Street. This area was once a junkyard and was a joint venture remediation project between Michigan City and LaPorte County. This project received the IACT cooperation award from the state for displaying extraordinary cooperation between municipalities and government agencies.

Concerns with this 2-acre field is the exposure of the NIPSCO cooling tower along a major route into downtown Michigan City and the general lack of forested areas within the immediate downtown area. The objective of this project is to return this 2-acre field back into a white pine, red oak, and red maple forest based from the Forest Cover Type 20 as recognized by the Society of American Foresters.

The major large tree species for this project will include 70 White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), 42 Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and 28 Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). Each of the major tree species will be a 2-inch diameter tree. Additional large tree species will be planted by hand as 1-2 year old seedlings and will include 1,000 Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*), 3,226 Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), and 1,000 American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Shrubs and vines will be planted by seed and will include witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Dwarf Bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Planting will occur in late summer or early fall of 2006. Prior to planting, seeding of native grasses will occur in late April early May 2006.

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**Applicant: City of East Chicago, IN**

**Project Title: East Chicago Beach Restoration Project**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$50,000**

**Local Share: \$50,000**

The City of East Chicago proposes a Beach Front Restoration Project in the amount of \$100,000. This project is in the Low Cost Construction/Natural Area Restoration category. The project site is a 1,000 foot stretch of city owned property along the East Chicago beach front.

The proposed Natural Area Restoration encompasses clearing away invasive species, installing native plantings, and constructing a boardwalk and ramp in accordance with ADA regulations. Remaining funds will be used to subsidize the construction of an observation deck that will also be handicapped accessible. The boardwalk will be approximately 100' long and 8' feet wide. The observation deck at the end of the boardwalk will contain educational kiosks and displays (funding applied for under the LMCP small grant program.)

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**Applicant: Northwest Indiana Steelheaders**

**Project Title: Springland Ave. /Karwick Rd. on Trail Creek**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$44,000**

**Local Share: \$44,000**

Trail Creek (LaPorte Co.)

Relocate fallen trees along river bank eroded area and cover with glacier stone. Install 80' of lunger structures to simulate undercut banks. George Palmeter river restoration techniques will be used along entire project.

Salt Creek (Porter Co.)

Clear and relocate fallen trees in Imagination Glenn County Park.

Student in-stream classroom projects

Conduct four, day-long hands-on stream restoration projects with Valparaiso University Biology Club under the direction of Professor of Biology Grayson Davis.

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**Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves**

**Project Title: Hoosier Prairie Block 11 and Gaylord Butterfly Tract Buckthorn Removal**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$33,750**

**Local Share: \$33,750**

The Hoosier Prairie Block 11 and Gaylord Tract Buckthorn Removal project is a restoration of a portion of the Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve. Hoosier Prairie is the largest remaining prairie/savanna complex in Indiana, and is a National Natural Landmark. A previous Coastal Grant restored much of the central portion of the preserve, and a current Coastal Grant is in progress to restore the southeastern blocks. This project will be to control Glossy Buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*, in two large tracts of the preserve. Block 11 is located in the southwestern portion of the preserve and the Gaylord Tract is located on the northeastern portion. Both areas have received fire and some mechanical removal of buckthorn in the past, but a severe density and cover of buckthorn remains. The goal of this project is to reduce the cover of this species by 90% on approximately 55 acres.

The outcome of this project will include a significant reduction in both cover of Glossy Buckthorn and removal of seed source. The overall outcome is an area of unique prairie/savanna habitat that is largely free of this exotic species allowing native plant species to thrive.

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**Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves**

**Project Title: Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve, Savanna & Wetland Restoration**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$20,000**

**Local Share: \$20,000**

The purpose of this proposed project is to restore native savanna and a small amount of wetland prairie at a portion of Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County, Indiana. Hoosier Prairie was acquired by the State of Indiana in the 1970s as the largest remaining prairie/savanna complex in Indiana. It is a National Natural Landmark. Recent studies of the Indiana coastal region have reconfirmed the natural significance of the site. The preserve contains diverse natural communities, including savanna and priority wetlands, especially wet prairie. It also contains many endangered and threatened species.

The overall goal of the project is to reduce the percentage cover of woody resprouts in the more diverse portions of Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve. Specifically, the area of focus is management blocks 3 & 4. Within these blocks, we will focus on the highest priority savanna and wetlands which encompasses approximately 16 acres. The objective is to reduce and/or kill 90% of woody resprouts of cherry, sassafras, sumac, aspen, cottonwood, and invasives bush honeysuckle and glossy buckthorn. In addition, the project will include an objective to reduce and/or kill 50% of oak resprouts.

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**Applicant: DNR – Division of Nature Preserves**

**Project Title: Clark and Pine East Phragmites Control**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration**

**Federal Request: \$12,500**

**Local Share: \$12,500**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR), Division of Nature Preserves is interested in the active management and restoration of Clark and Pine East, located in Lake

County, Indiana. This property is approximately 258 acres and it contains a mixture of globally rare dune and swale topography, sand-mined areas, two ponds and several hundred feet of frontage on the Grand Calumet River. Clark and Pine East provides habitat for numerous state listed plant and animal species and consists of sand savanna, sand prairie, wet prairie, sedge meadow, emergent marsh, and shrub swamp plant communities.

The goal of this project is to significantly reduce the presence of *Phragmites australis* at Clark and Pine East. Numerous invasive plant species occur on the property. Several of these species are aggressive and are capable of drastically altering the plant community in which they are found. This project will include the treatment of such vegetation through foliar broadcast spray and wick herbicide application. This restoration project involves approximately 30 acres at the Clark and Pine East property and it will target the area around the ponds up to the Grand Calumet River. The project objective is to reduce the presence of *Phragmites australis* by 90% within the treatment area. The restoration of this area will improve the overall biodiversity and habitat potential for the site and reduce the spread *Phragmites australis* to other portions of the property.

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**Applicant: Portage Parks Department**

**Project Title: Little Calumet Prairie River Public Access and Restoration Area**

**Project Type: Natural Area Restoration / Recreational Improvement**

**Federal Request: \$100,000**

**Local Share: \$332,649**

Grant funds will be used to restore six acres of the Little Calumet River Public Access and Restoration Area property. The Portage Parks Foundation is donating the land to the Portage Parks Department to provide the required match and to allow for restoration and future management.

The project entails floodplain forest enhancement, developing a trail system for nature appreciation and to gain angler and canoe access to the Little Calumet River, creating a lesson plan for high school students, and preparing a property management plan.

The restoration component includes removal of undesirable trees, shrubs and herbaceous species through cutting and herbicide applications. Target invasive species are *Phragmites*, garlic mustard and boxelder. Native floodplain forest species will be planted at a rate of 150 seedlings per acre along with seeding native understory plants. Wetlands will be enhanced by breaking drainage tiles and removing sediment from an oxbow. 1,300 feet of wood chip trail will be constructed and interpretive signage will be installed along the trail. Approximately 300 feet of trail will need to be constructed across national lakeshore property to link this property to the Little Calumet River. The Portage Parks Department has the support of the National Lakeshore; any trail construction across the national lakeshore property will be borne by the parks department and the Northwest Indiana Steelheaders. A handicap accessible parking lot will be constructed next to Ameriplex Drive to provide access to the property. The management plan will guide parks staff in vegetation management and future monitoring.

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**Applicant: Town of Porter, IN Redevelopment Commission**

**Project Title: Orchard Pedestrian Bridge**

**Project Type: Recreational Improvement**

**Federal Request: \$100,000**

**Local Share: \$100,000**

The Orchard Pedestrian Bridge and elevated pathway is the result of several years of planning the Orchard Pedestrian way, which is an active project under design funded by a federal grant CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality). The pedestrian way is to enhance and improve air quality by installing a walkway along Waverly Road. The proposed project will connect the north and south walkway by installing a bridge across the Little Calumet River. Having been a

goal of the Town of Porter since 2003, this is the perfect opportunity to finally move the project from the planning phase to design and construction phase.

The Town of Porter Parks and Recreation Department owns the parcel south of the Little Calumet River, and Indiana Department of Transportation owns the parcel north of the Little Calumet River. The project will have the following objectives: 1) bicycle/pedestrian Path 2) bird watching Area 3) Nature Walking Trail 4) access to the Lake Michigan tributary – Little Calumet River 5) connect a major project across the Little Calumet River. The project goals are: 1) clean-up of air emissions 2) recreational opportunity, trail, bicycle, and bird watching 3) connection between north and south Orchard Pedestrian Way 4) provide access to a major river feeding Lake Michigan 5) enhance access to 19 acre Hawthorn Community Park (Community hall, Baseball field, Shelter, Playground...etc.) 6) enhance access to fishing the Chinook Salmon run in early fall, and steelhead trout fishing in mid-summer in the Little Calumet River.

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**Applicant: Jerry Ross Elementary School, Crown Point, IN**  
**Project Title: Jerry Ross Elementary Natural Habitat Restoration Project**  
**Project Type: Recreational Improvement**  
**Federal Request: \$9,700** **Local Share: \$9,800**

Jerry Ross Elementary School is proposing to develop a Natural Habitat Restoration Area within the school's Outdoor Learning Center in the school's courtyard. The proposed project includes various learning stations to support the school's inquiry-based science curriculum. The proposed project seeks \$9,700 in Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program funding to create learning stations identified as:

- (1) A constructed wetland featuring native emergent , pre-emergent, and sedge meadow plants (800 sf);
- (2) An excavated pond that will support aquatic life and recirculate water through the wetland (700 sf); and,
- (3) A prairie meadow habitat with native wildflowers and plants (1,000 sf).

The proposed Natural Habitat Restoration Area will promote "hands on" science instruction on water quality, water quality protection, watershed management, and demonstrate the role wetlands play in protecting water quality. Jerry Ross Elementary School, which is a member school of the Crown Point Community School Corporation serving Lake County's Winfield and Center Townships, provides science instruction for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The applicant is seeking a 12-month grant project period. The proposed project start date is August 1, 2006. Project activities are scheduled to be accomplished by July 31, 2007.

#### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**Applicant: Purdue University North Central**  
**Project Title: Workshop on enhancing wetland education through GIS applications**  
**Project Type: Natural Area Management Training**  
**Federal Request: \$7,710** **Local Share: \$7,710**

The funding request is to support a multi-agency Geographical Information (GIS) Workshop for the development of wetland education at Purdue University, North Central campus. Landscape-level GIS mapping for natural resource planning is becoming a common tool in most local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector. Much GIS information is being transferred among government organizations. Teachers and interpreters can learn how to use these tools to create and interpret maps for classroom and in-field studies. Students can learn from teachers the basic methods of GIS mapping, which can increase their technical skills required for future employment and higher education. Scientists from USGS National Wetlands

Research Center will provide the technical support and implement the workshop. Participants attending the workshop will be trained (Train the Trainers) to develop subsequent workshops at other sites in Northwest Indiana.

The intended audience for the 3-day workshop includes teachers, non-formal educators, and resource managers in Northwest Indiana. The objectives are: 1) focus on hands-on education and materials to demonstrate land-use changes, as they apply to wetlands and uplands, in Northwest Indiana and 2) provide training in the use of the "WETMAAP" (Wetland Education Through Maps and Aerial Photography) website ([www.wetmaap.org](http://www.wetmaap.org)) developed by the USGS National Wetlands Research Center. The total cost for the workshop is \$63,420. USGS will provide \$47,000 of services, which is the majority of the funding to implement the workshop. The Great Lakes Research and Education Center and the National Park Service will provide a \$9,000 match, with a request of \$7,710 from the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grant Program.

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**Applicant: Save the Dunes Conservation Fund**

**Project Title: Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team – Training, Working, Outreach (ICRAT-TWO)**

**Project Type: Natural Area Management Training**

**Federal Request: \$64,500**

**Local Share: \$64,500**

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, will address the need for natural area management training by coordinating training for the purpose of controlling invasive plants. Innovative training concepts as well as traditional training will be offered through an Education/Outreach §306 project titled, Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team-Training, Working, Outreach (ICRAT-TWO.) Natural area management training is a priority of the Coastal Advisory Board for 2006.

It will build upon the Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team (ICRAT) Project CZ 0314. The ICRAT project will meet or exceed its measurable outcomes. To date, 24 field trainings and 13 training workshops have been held with participation from 208 various people. Of this total, 14% attended two events, 5% attended three, and 7% attended four or more. Fifteen (15) people have become CORE registered herbicide technicians. Twenty-one (21) became red carded from the 130/190 fire training and initially were offered a job on a wildfire taking place in another state. The training resulted in 6 enhanced positions in the private sector, 3 enhanced positions in the public sector, one hiring and one potential hiring. Others have been contacted for participation in fires throughout the country.

This partnership among public and private organizations will further collaboration among land managers and will work with the partnerships created in the ICRAT project, such as the Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network (NIIPN.) Save the Dunes Conservation Fund has been funded by Chicago Wilderness to work with our NIIPN partners to identify data and recommend management strategies relating to restoration efforts in Porter and LaPorte counties. This will further strengthen our partnerships among land managers and regional stakeholders.

The partnerships created will further enable the action team that was established outside of the ICRAT project. The goal of this collaborative team effort is to work together on restoration projects within the coastal area on a revolving basis.

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**Applicant: Valparaiso University**

**Project Title: Learning to keep the Coastline Rivers healthy in theory and practice**

**Project Type: Comprehensive Education / Outreach**

**Federal Request: \$8,590**

**Local Share: \$11,792**

The Valparaiso University Biology Department has a history (9 years) of providing a Biology Department Colloquium (alternate weeks during the academic year, occasionally concerning local environmental issues) and, through its Biology Club, of performing twice-yearly

Stream Restorations (6 years) with our volunteer labor and with direction and supplies from Rivertenders, an organization dedicated to wise river management. While open to all, these colloquia and projects have been little advertised to the general public, and are therefore poorly attended by them. We seek funds to focus both the colloquium and the restorations upon our coastal watershed. Local residents and students could thereby be given theoretical and practical training in coastal management. First, we propose to increase the local impact of colloquia by focusing their content for one academic year upon practical approaches to environmental problems associated with our coastal rivers and by hosting one presentation from a nationally-recognized speaker on a similar topic of local import. The audience will learn much about the theoretical basis of maintaining a healthy coastal watershed and meet speakers and other attendees who actively participate in its management. Upcoming Biology Club stream restoration dates will be advertised.

Furthermore, the contact data for the local speakers, attendees and their organizations will be collected into a community address base for advance publicity. Second, we will purchase supplies and a trailer with a small wet lab to make our river monitoring and restoration efforts sustainable. We will work with Rivertenders and NWI Steelheaders by participating in their restoration efforts in Trail Creek and Salt Creek (see their separate ILMCP application). The local address base will be used to invite more participants. Each restoration will include discussion and demonstration of chemical and biological monitoring as well as an explanation of the fundamental methodology and goals of river restoration.

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**Applicant: Porter County Board of Commissioners**

**Project Title: Porter County Landscaping Manual**

**Project Type: Planning/Coordination/Management**

**Federal Request: \$20,000**

**Local Match: \$20,000**

*Landscaping manual to compliment Porter County Unified Development Ordinance:*  
The landscaping manual will compliment the recently adopted Porter County Unified Development Ordinance. The landscaping manual will cover street tree species, landscaping requirements for parking lots and the species type, natural storm water treatment with landscaping materials and landscaping of and design of open space for proposed development within the County, and buffer requirements with trees and bushes for conflicting land uses when developed next to each other (i.e. industrial developed next to residential). The manual will divide the county in two with the design and species selection using the Valparaiso moraine as the divider, recognizing that the Lake Michigan Watershed and Kankakee River Watershed are two separate eco-systems. Staff of the Plan Commission will outreach to developers on the use of the manual. Development of the manual is also consistent with implementation objectives and activities identified in both the Salt Creek and Dunes Creek watershed management plans.

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**Applicant: Michigan City Sanitary District**

**Project Title: Striebel Pond Bird Guide and Planting Signage**

**Project Type: Education/Outreach**

**Federal Request: \$2,000**

**Local Match: \$2,000**

The Sanitary District of Michigan City is seeking funds to create birding guides and vegetation placards at Striebel Pond. The Sanitary District of Michigan City created Striebel Pond with the overall goal of reducing the flood hazard associated with the 100-year storm event along Striebel Arm of Kintzele Ditch. A second primary goal for any proposed flood control project would be the general safety of citizens that would potentially be using the planned multi-use flood control facility.

With respect to the historical existing flood hazard, approximately five-hundred (500) residences in three residential neighborhoods were located within a FEMA designated 100-year

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) since 1981. For the design of this project, the Sanitary District worked with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., to actively engage stakeholders to produce a flood control facility project that would be acceptable to the community. The end result is a regional nature center and neighborhood amenity facility that meets the primary project objectives and showcases a variety of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs).

A series of public meetings were held to discuss alternative designs for the site. Local environmental advocacy groups, including the Save the Dunes Council and the Michigan City Tree Board were also included in planning discussions, due to the proximity of the site to Lake Michigan. These environmental advocacy groups were particularly appreciative of the plan to use only native species for proposed ground cover and plantings. Although more difficult to establish, native plantings provide more sensitivity to the local environmental conditions. For long-term erosion control, permanent native vegetation was planned for different zones within the site. Additionally, 660 native trees and 640 native shrubs were planted to enhance wildlife habitat at the site.

The site was also designed to serve as a multi-use nature center, with public amenities including more than a mile of paved 10' wide asphalt trail; two asphalt parking lots; a gazebo structure; two Chalet-style shelters; and two arched pedestrian bridges. The end result is a serene nature center, with recreational and educational opportunities, that also reduces flooding, improves water quality, and provides wildlife habitat.

The site was officially opened to the public in spring of 2006 on Arbor Day, dedicated with the planting of additional native trees to supplement the site. Now that the project is completed, not a day passes that local residents are absent from the site. Already, seasoned birders are keeping detailed records of the over 90 species of birds that have been seen or heard while at Striebel Pond, which include a variety of waterfowl as well as wrens, warblers and swallows to name a few. This project will provide a unique education opportunity, by assisting visitors in the identification of the bird species, as well as the vegetation planted at the site.

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**Applicant: Michigan City Sanitary District**

**Project Title: Trail Creek Environmental Improvement Trailer**

**Project Type: Planning/Coordination/Management**

**Federal Match: \$6,000**

**Local Match: \$6,000**

The Sanitary District of Michigan City is seeking funds to outfit a mobile Trail Creek Environmental Improvement unit. Over the last 5 years, The City of Michigan City, along with the Northwest Indiana Steelheaders implemented streambank restoration practices in Trail Creek (a salmonid tributary to Lake Michigan), and are currently working on a section of the Creek, partnering the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife using Coastal funds. The methods used in these stabilizations eliminate stream bank erosion, increase creek flow, create and improve fish habitat and provide appropriate access to streams and creeks. These projects concentrate on log jam removal, bank improvement strategies, introducing habitat improving structures (lunkers) and establishing proper and accessible access points at several locations.

The Sanitary District completed the Trail Creek Watershed Management in 2007, and has since been approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The Watershed Plan identifies streambank stabilization has a implementation goal for improving water quality. The Sanitary District would like to take on the role of overseeing and implementing streambank stabilization projects in-house. This would reduce the dependance on seeking outside contractors to implement these practices. Outfitting this mobile unit will allow various municipal departments and volunteers to have access to the necessary tools.

As part of the Trail Creek Watershed Management Plan efforts, aquatic habitat testing and evaluation near prior habitat improvement structures has indicated positive results thus far. With the proposed Trail Creek Environmental Improvement Trailer, habitat resotration efforts and activities can be expanded to achieve even greater results.

**Applicant: Town of Chesterton, IN**  
**Project Title: Dogwood Park Wetland Educational Project**  
**Project Type: Education/Outreach**  
**Federal Request: \$4,200**                      **Local Match: \$4,200**

Dogwood Park constructed wetland area will accommodate various perennials, shrubs, and natural wildlife. In addition, it will be an excellent site for an education program aimed to school children and visitors. The education program will include signage to identify various vegetation and wildlife for visitors. The Town is presently working with the science departments in the Duneland School Corporation to utilize the wetland as an education tool to teach the importance of biodiversity. The Chesterton High School Environmental Club has also taken an interest in the project and will coordinate with the Town on various projects.

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**Applicant: The Outback Trail Commission**  
**Project Title: Prairie Duneland/Iron Horse/Outback Trail signage and trail improvements**  
**Project Type:**

**Project Summary:** The purpose of the grant is to increase trail user safety as well as to add additional informational signage. There are many trail intersections where potential accidents involving walkers, joggers and bikers can occur. A portion of the Outback Trail, an unpaved off road trail, is shared with the Iron Horse Trail. This portion is not clearly marked and user accidents have a high potential to occur. There are trail intersections on the Outback Trail that lead to Salt Creek. This is a major route for fishermen as well as joggers, hikers and birders. Again some trail users are not aware they are on part of a multi use trail.

Imagination Glen Park in Portage borders Salt Creek and contains or is adjacent to numerous multiuse trail systems. These include the Prairie Duneland Trail that has connections to the Iron Horse Trail that is a shared trail with the Outback Trail. The Prairie Duneland is a 6 mile trail running through the city of Portage and has connector trails that meet with the Iron Horse Trail. The Iron Horse is a 3 mile linear trail that has shared sections with the Outback Trail. The Outback Trail is an off road trail system that has various loops and sub sections that total ten miles in length.

The Outback Trail Commission [OTC] has identified some trail intersections that are in immediate need for signage. This will direct users and provide awareness of the shared use systems on the various trails. The OTC will install five posts that will have several signs on each of them. We will also build split rail fencing that will draw greater attention to the shared trail intersections and lessen the potential for accidents.

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**Project Title: Porter County Ecology / Heritage Trail**  
**Applicant: Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission**  
**Project Type: Education/Outreach**  
**Federal Request: \$5,000**                      **Local Match; \$5,000**

The Porter County Ecology / Heritage Trail is new product development that threads all of the communities of Porter County together by linking existing ecological and heritage assets currently in the county. There are four phases to the project. Phase I is the only phase that has funding and is just starting. Phase I includes evaluating 45 ecological and heritage assets. This grant will allow us to add 15 site evaluations. Link the assets together via themes. Create marketing material for the trail and create an ecology / heritage trail map listing all the assets.

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**Applicant: Portage Community Historical Society**  
**Project Title: Linden Log House Planning Grant**  
**Project Type: Resource Management**  
**Federal Request: \$2,500**                      **Local Match: \$2,500**

The Porter County Historical Society is now working with National Park Service, the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and State Historic Preservation Officer (IDNR) to

determine the necessary course of action for the proper preservation of the 1880 Linden Log House. The LMCP funds will be used for Planning Grant for the development of complete engineering documents, working plans and specifications related to the scope of work needed for the restoration of the Linden Log House.

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**Applicant: LaPorte County SWCD**

**Project Title: Water Quality Testing Supplies for the Galena River Watershed Management Plan**

**Project Type: Resource Management**

**Federal Request: \$500.00**

**Local Match: \$500.00**

The LaPorte County SWCD has been awarded a DNR Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) grant to conduct a watershed diagnostic study and to develop a watershed management plan for the Galena River. The development of the Galena River Watershed Management Plan is a unique partnership between the LaPorte County SWCD, IDEM, and LMCP. To assist the LaPorte County SWCD, IDEM has committed to fast-track the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for the Galena River watershed. The Galena River is listed for E. coli on the Indiana 303(d) list of impaired waterways. Typically the development of a TMDL only requires that the parameter for which the impairment exists be studied. However, IDEM has also committed to collecting and analyzing all water chemistry parameters required by the LARE scope of services to assist the LaPorte County SWCD in the development of the watershed management plan. This results in a substantial cost savings to the LaPorte County SWCD. The LaPorte County SWCD is requesting LMCP funds to purchase E. coli testing supplies that will be used by IDEM assessment staff for this study. IDEM had not previously planned to conduct the study this year and is in need of these supplies to complete the work.

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**Applicant: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**

**Project Title: Walking the Line: Balancing Riparian property Owner and Public Trust rights on the Shoreline**

**Project Type: Education/Outreach**

**Federal Request: \$5,000**

**Local Match: \$5,000**

This project will produce an easy to understand brochure explaining the public trust doctrine, public's right to the shoreline, and property owner's rights on their land. This brochure will be used as source material for community workshops to conduct a dialogue on the inherent conflict between these two groups and explore ways to resolve that conflict. The result should be a corps of engaged and knowledgeable citizens well equipped to participate in the future when the LMCP and its partners conduct public access management planning in the Coastal Area.

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**Project Title: Hilbrich Log Cabin Preservation Plan**

**Applicant: Schererville Park Department**

**Project Type: Resource Management**

**Federal Request: \$5,000**

**Local Match: \$5,000**

In 2007, the Schererville Park Department and the Town of Schererville received a donation of the historic Hilbrich Log Cabin. The cabin had remained in the Hilbrich family since their settling in Northwest Indiana, now known as Schererville, from Germany. Construction of the original cabin was done in 1847 and had remained at its original location. Once the property was sold, it was agreed that the cabin was too significant of piece of Schererville's history to be demolished. Donation of the cabin was contingent upon relocation by the Town of Schererville. Scherwood Park was chosen as the new location for the cabin. A fundraising campaign was initiated raising enough money to relocate the cabin last month. Steps can now be taken to

plan on the renovation and restoration of the cabin. This phase of the project will involve selecting an architect to completed a preservation plan for the cabin. The eventual goal is to be able to offer educational and recreational programming centered around the cabin. The focus would be on the cultural and historic significance of the cabin and its impact on Schererville's history. The project entails the preparation of a preservation plan for the interior and exterior of the historic Hilbrich Log Cabin located in Scherwood Park.