

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Civic Engagement of Neighboring Communities

Intermediate Report

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Stephen A. Wolter
Executive Director

Andrea Titzer
Project Manager

Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands
Indiana University Research Park
501 N. Morton Street, Suite 100
Bloomington, IN 47404
812.855.3095

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Contributing Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Staff:

Constantine Dillon, Superintendent
Garry Traynham, Deputy Superintendent
Lynda Lancaster, Civic Engagement and Volunteer Manager

Contributing Eppley Institute Staff:

Stephen A. Wolter, Executive Director
Andrea Titzer, Project Manager
John Drew, Project Support
Allene Lowrey, Editor

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INTRODUCTION

When Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, the boundary of the park was drawn in a manner that retained private homes and land ownership surrounded or partially surrounded by park land. Over the years, this configuration has led to a variety of challenges for private landowners as well as local and federal government. The National Park Service (NPS) is interested in finding long-term approaches to working with these challenges and seeking methods that will allow Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to work with communities in mutually beneficial ways.

The purpose of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Civic Engagement Project is to develop better relations with neighboring communities, specifically four enclave communities: Ogden Dunes, Porter Beach, Dune Acres and Beverly Shores. In order to assist Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in understanding the concerns of its neighboring communities, the Eppley Institute implemented a civic engagement process. This process was designed to gather and compile information and facilitate dialogue that will allow Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to initiate discussion, programs, and policies that will appeal to Indiana residents and to establish a greater understanding of the NPS mission as well as an atmosphere of trust and collaboration.

In order to meet the overall goal of developing better relations with neighboring communities, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands implemented a multi-phase, versatile public engagement process. The process includes stakeholder interviews with local community leaders, a survey to further pinpoint issues and reach a large number of residents, and public meetings. A report summarizing the stakeholder interviews through qualitative analysis was issued in June, 2009. As part of Phase II of the civic engagement process, the survey was conducted in July 2009. The third phase of the civic engagement project consisted of public meetings held in September and October 2009.

This process strives not only to welcome and encourage public involvement in the National Lakeshore and its programs in thinking about the future of its resources, planning and decision-making, but also to inform the public of challenges confronting the NPS and provide opportunity for participation in finding solutions. The following document reports on findings from the stakeholder interviews, survey and a first round of public meetings. As a result of this civic engagement process, facilitated quarterly meetings are planned to continue dialogue between community residents and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Methodology

Stakeholders are individuals who represent the community as a result of their position, involvement, interest, or identity in the community. The stakeholders of a community generally represent a cross section of the community and are interviewed in order to obtain a sense of overall public opinion. Stakeholders were identified by the Eppley Institute and management at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The stakeholder interview process targeted community leaders whose community involvement varied from councilperson to home association board member. Approximately 40 stakeholders were identified and invited to participate in the stakeholder interviews.

Invitation letters were sent out to stakeholders. Non-responses were followed up with phone call invitations. The stakeholder interviews were held during a two-week period; one week at Woodland Park in Portage and one week at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center. Throughout February 2009 approximately 30 stakeholder interviews were conducted.

One staff member from the Eppley Institute conducted interviews. Each of the stakeholders was interviewed individually. Interviews were scheduled in one-hour time slots and took place in a private room with only the stakeholder and the interviewer present.

A questionnaire was developed by the Eppley Institute, and all interviews were conducted in a standardized format. The interviews consisted of a number of questions focusing on the relationship between the public and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Stakeholders were invited to give their opinion on this relationship and to identify key issues that are essential to improving relations.

Stakeholders were assured confidentiality. The one-on-one interaction and the private atmosphere were intended to give stakeholders an opportunity to speak freely without concern for how others interpret their comments.

Results

The results from these questions were grouped into nine categories: 1) impression of the Lakeshore; 2) community relationship with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; 3) major concerns regarding Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; 4) public's complaints; 5) public's compliments; 6) how can relationship with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore improve; 7) improving visitor experience; 8) NPS mission awareness; and 9) suggestions for future programming.

Impression of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

In the area of "**impression of the Lakeshore**" residents overwhelmingly reported a sense of appreciation. This appreciation focused on the beauty of the landscape and land preservation. Residents recognize that the area is protected from industrialization thanks to the legal presence of the National Lakeshore: many stated that this is the main reason they moved to the community. Residents frequently recreate on National Lakeshore property. Many residents



stated that they feel their communities have a privileged position, being protected from development, and categorized the National Lakeshore as an “invaluable resource.”

While residents appear to be genuine in their appreciativeness of the presence of the physical National Lakeshore entity, they also recognize the difficulty of managing this diverse resource “carved from compromise” in such close proximity to large urban areas. Many residents reported that they perceived the human aspects relating to the National Lakeshore difficult to contend with. Many residents articulated feelings of mistrust, and some residents expressed an attitude of apathy in that they feel the National Lakeshore represents a one-sided relationship because it represents the Federal government and feel that, historically, the Federal government can “do whatever it wants to do.”

Concerns

Related to the sense of mistrust is the second category of “**concerns regarding INDU.**” The majority of residents voiced concerns and perceptions regarding a lack of transparency, lack of communication, and “deteriorating relationships,” which they attribute to perceived unconstructive management. One resident stated that the NPS has become “invisible” in recent times. Some residents reported that in previous National Lakeshore management relations they felt that the National Lakeshore worked more collaboratively with the communities to define mutually beneficial solutions and that this approach has been completely abandoned.

Many stakeholders perceive a lack of regular communication, that the communities and the NPS are missing opportunities to work together, and that relationships could be friendlier and more cooperative if the NPS reached out to the communities. Many stakeholders feel that the public exhibits good will towards the NPS but that this good will is one-sided, causing the public to become increasingly “disenchanted.”

Other concerns include fear of expansion, indefinite boundaries, fear of the National Park Service, restricted access, increased land use restrictions and increased development to accommodate higher visitor numbers. In addition, many residents have the impression that the National Park Service and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore underestimate visitor impact on the neighboring towns.

Complaints

The impacts on the neighboring towns were categorized as the “**public’s complaints about INDU**” and, across the four communities, included lack of parking facilities, trash left on the beach, increasing visitor numbers with the same visitor facilities, lack of directional and informational (safety) signage, and deer management policies. In addition, many stakeholders stated that there is not a point of contact person at the National Lakeshore.

Community-specific concerns were recorded. For Beverly Shores, these complaints also included: road conditions and road maintenance responsibilities, traffic congestion, perceived effects from the Great Marsh restoration project including flooding, poor drainage, and increased presence of beavers and mosquitoes, untimely restoration of the Century of Progress Homes, and the situation of elderly people living in lease-backs. Aside from the physical impacts, it is perceived by some stakeholders that Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

does not contribute as much as it should to repairing and improving infrastructure. Many Beverly Shores stakeholders deplored the lack of surveillance of the beach by the National Lakeshore and feel their law enforcement services are strained from providing surveillance of National Lakeshore visitors.

Ogden Dunes reported concerns of uncertainty of proper recreational use at the Portage Lakefront, as well as dog restrictions.

Compliments

While many stakeholder responses and perceptions were negative, there were notable praises that were coded as the “**public’s compliments about INDU.**” The chief compliment was in regards to the excellent staff, rangers, law enforcement personnel, and fire protection personnel. Many stakeholders remarked on the excellent cooperative relationships of the community and National Lakeshore law enforcement entities. Cooperative relationships were also complimented regarding invasive species control projects. Additional compliments included the National Lakeshore’s commitment to protecting and restoring the land and the quality of educational programs and events offered. Stakeholders also complimented the fruition of the Portage Lakefront facility, other quality NPS facilities along the lakeshore, and NPS programs and events. Some stakeholders complimented the presence of NPS management staff at some town meetings.

NPS Mission Awareness

Many stakeholders feel that the public has a general sense of understanding of the **NPS mission**. Some stakeholders feel that a minority of community members understand the mission but do not like the basic idea that the National Lakeshore provides for public enjoyment; some stakeholders suggested that a small number of community members exhibit xenophobic behaviors towards National Lakeshore visitors. Many stakeholders perceive a shift in the NPS mission from protection to consciously increasing visitor numbers.

Stakeholders feel that there are several ways to increase public awareness of the NPS mission and suggest: increasing interaction with youth, tying in the resource management message with other local efforts and communicating a message of appreciation of the global area efforts, and balancing communication of mission elements including preservation efforts as well as visitor enjoyment.

Improving Visitor Experience

Many suggestions were made to **improve visitor experience**. Suggestions included increasing directional and informational (safety) signage, coordinating with local and state signage efforts, increasing visitor amenities such as food and lodging, making brochures more readily available at National Lakeshore locations, providing more educational information such as staying on trails, increasing NPS staff presence on beaches and trails to provide for a friendly presence as opposed to only seeing staff when a problem arises, and providing for more beach patrol. Stakeholders suggested providing more volunteer opportunities and volunteer training.

Many stakeholders are concerned about visitor safety. Several suggestions were made to increase visitor safety, including: increased, systematic beach patrol, ranger presence on



beaches on days of rip currents to inform people of dangers or to keep people out of the water, and installing a flag system to indicate swimming safety level .

Improving Relations between the National Lakeshore and Neighboring Communities

Understanding that the relationship between Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the neighboring communities is not as productive as desired by both the NPS and the communities, stakeholders were asked **“how can the relationship with INDU improve?”** The resounding response was to improve communication. Stakeholders expressed overwhelming support of the National Lakeshore but deplore what they perceive as “silent” management.

It was suggested that communication can improve through the following actions: 1) National Lakeshore officials could attend town meetings; 2) the National Lakeshore could explain its goals and objectives to the public rather than being silent, leading to a perceived sense of secrecy; 3) the National Lakeshore could identify a key contact person and provide contact information for that individual; 4) the National Lakeshore could utilize local papers to communicate and publicize; and 5) the National Lakeshore could add additional and better signage for beach access, beach rules, and parking.

Many stakeholders suggested that the National Lakeshore be proactive in its relationships and provide an outreach effort by attending town meetings to provide updates, providing a liaison representative available at regular times to consult and dialogue with community members, making regular educational/informational presentations, or creating an event such as an annual breakfast to inform the public of National Lakeshore successes and plans, and bringing fire/rescue equipment to summer events. Many stakeholders would like for the NPS to inform the public of research projects being conducted and of the results. A particular outreach effort was suggested to involve youth.

Stakeholders suggested working with the communities to be active supporters of the National Lakeshore in a more organized manner, such as an active friends group.

Many stakeholders stated that it is necessary to have a transparent and unambiguous understanding of NPS jurisdiction in the area, especially regarding the lakefront. Some stakeholders feel that without an unequivocal explanation, NPS actions can seem arbitrary and the resulting misinterpretation fuels the fire for hostile relations.

All stakeholders desire clear, candid communication and that the National Lakeshore explain not only what it is doing, but also what it is not doing. By also communicating the message of what is not being done, stakeholders believe that feelings of mistrust and fear will be diluted. Stakeholders desire an explanation of processes and “why” certain actions are being taken as opposed to a perceived decreed action with no explanation. Many stakeholders suggested presenting justification when the National Lakeshore responds that it cannot provide a service because of funding issues. Stakeholders stated that the National Lakeshore should focus on cultivating a “warmer” relationship with the neighboring communities by exhibiting positive behavior.

Programming

In addition to improving communication, stakeholders also made “**suggestions for future programming.**” These suggestions include providing informative programs geared toward locals and visitors who are unaware of the area’s history. There was also an interest in interpretive programs involving trails. Family programs were also suggested. Aside from programs, stakeholders suggested having a designated dog area and a designated sledding area. These suggestions were the result of complaints regarding confusion over current dog regulations on the beach.

Conclusion

Approximately 40 stakeholder interviews were conducted during the first phase of the civic engagement process. The data collected during the interviews points to common concerns of communication, concern for management decisions and communication of decisions, concerns related directly to visitor use such as litter and adequate visitor facilities to support increasing visitor numbers. Other concerns indicated by some stakeholders indicated a mistrust of the federal government and a concern for transparency in future planning and projects. Another area of concern is that most stakeholders were aware of some components of the NPS mission, but not of the entirety of the NPS mission. Several stakeholders voiced opinions indicating that the goals of their communities and the goals of the NPS, as communicated through the NPS mission, are incompatible.

Stakeholders overwhelmingly stated that they feel appreciation for the protected lands of the NPS that surround their communities. Stakeholders pointed out issues related to visitor use such as litter, parking, and some inappropriate use of public lands. Many stakeholders, however, stated that they recognize the NPS lands and beaches are lands for public use and that the public benefits from their use.



RESIDENT SURVEY

Survey Methodology

The purpose of the resident survey was to assess resident opinions regarding the relationship between their community and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The survey provided every private landowner in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes and Porter Beach an opportunity to provide feedback about both positive and negative impressions of the relationship between their community and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, as well as provide solutions to perceived problems. The goal of the survey was to reach as many residents of the communities as possible so as to obtain the most varied and wide-reaching input into the Civic Engagement process. The survey replaced a series of public meetings to be held in each community. It was concluded after stakeholder interviews that, because of the nature of the communities (many commuter residents, many secondary homeowners), it would be more beneficial and efficient.

The results gathered from the survey serve as a basis for determining resident appreciation, opinions of the relationship, identifying perceived problems and solutions to perceived problems, identifying collaborative projects, assessing public knowledge of the NPS mission, and improving visitor experience.

The information gathered from this study will be used by the Eppley Institute in addressing issues between the communities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and, as a result, in designing quarterly community meetings to find mutually beneficial solutions to issues and bilaterally agreed-upon paths of action.

Population

The population for this survey was determined to be all residents of Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes and Porter Beach.

Survey method

A census was conducted by sending an invitation to take the survey to all private landowners in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes and Porter Beach. Private landowner addresses were obtained for the communities through the Porter County Assessor's Office. The population for Porter Beach was determined by exact address among the town of Porter addresses obtained from the Porter County Assessor's Office. The survey allowed one response per household. The respondent was any adult member of the household.

A press release was sent to two local newspapers, three community newsletters and to all town contacts for town websites. The press release was sent on June 10, 2009.

Questionnaire design

Online and mail surveys were developed and designed by the Eppley Institute. Survey questions were determined after qualitative analysis of stakeholder interviews held in February, 2009. Survey questions identified areas in which the Eppley Institute sought to gather specific data as identified by key topics defined in the qualitative analysis of the stakeholder interview process.

Survey procedure

Addresses were obtained from the Porter County Assessor's office in June, 2009. The Eppley Institute sent an invitation letter to take an online survey to 2930 households on July 1, 2009. The invitation letter explained the project, project goals and project phases. Online respondents were given until July 15th to take the survey online via a uniform resource locator (URL) specified in the invitation letter. Respondents who preferred to obtain a paper copy of the survey were instructed in the letter to call the Eppley institute and request a paper survey. Paper surveys and self-addressed stamped envelopes were sent to those respondents. Respondents were informed that an additional delay for returning these paper surveys would be granted until July 23, 2009.

A human subjects incentive was presented in the invitation letter. If residents wished to be entered into a drawing for one of two \$25 gift certificates from Lucrezia's in Chesterton, respondents could enter their email address in the online survey or physical address on the paper survey.

Of the 2930 letters sent to residents, 144 were returned for incorrect addresses, change of address or no forwarding address. The online survey was completed by 395 residents; 15 residents returned paper surveys for a total of 410 responses. The response rate was near 14%. However, 100 responses were incomplete, providing only address information for the incentive drawing. The actual response rate was 11%, or 310 completed responses. The response rate of 11% is considered an average response rate for mail surveys. Although the survey was an online survey, the invitation was by mail and this method cannot expect the high return rates of online surveys that are sent directly to the subjects' email address.

Results

Question 1: How long have you resided in this community?

Forty-four percent of respondents (135 respondents) reported having resided in their community for 20 years or more; 19% reported having resided in their community for 11 to 19 years, and 18% reported having resided in their community for both one to five years and 6 to 10 years.



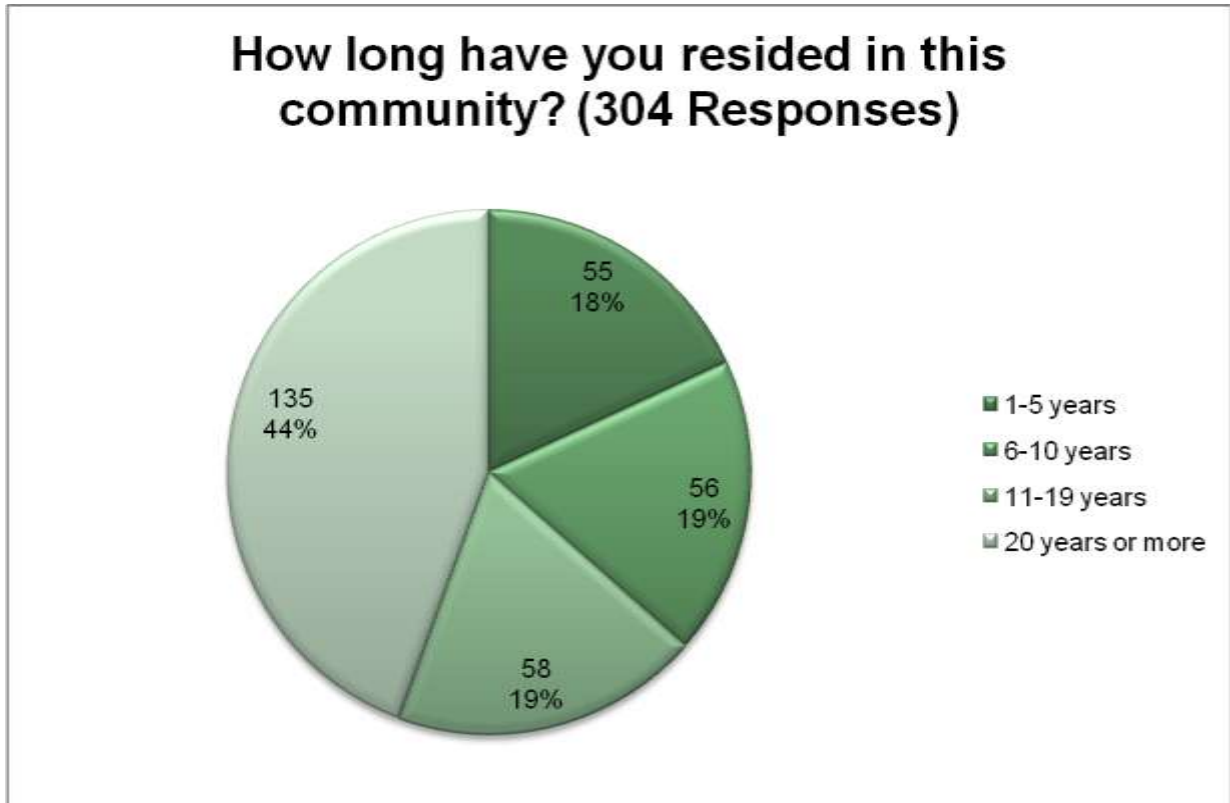


Figure 1: How long have you resided in this community? (304 Responses)

Question 2: How many nights do you spend per month in your home in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes or Porter Beach?

A majority of respondents (165) reported spending the entire month in their residence in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes or Porter Beach; 14 residents spend 25-29 nights, 9 respondents spend 17 to 24 nights, 17 respondents spend 11 to 16 nights, 37 respondents spend 6 to 10 nights, 15 respondents spend 1 to 5 nights, and 34 respondents do not spend any nights in their residence.

Question 3: How many members live in your household ages 18 and over?

Forty-one respondents reported having one member in their household, 189 respondents reported 2 household members, 32 respondents reported 3 household members, 12 respondents reported 4 household members, 6 respondents reported 5 members, 2 respondents reported 6 household members.

Question 4: How many children under 18 years old live in your household?

Two hundred and twenty respondents reported 0 household members under 18 years old, 35 reported one household member under 18 years old, 28 reported two household members under 18 years old, 10 reported 3 household members under 18 years old, 4 reported 4 household members under 18 years old, one reported 5 household members under 18 years old and one reported 6 household members under 18 years old.

Question 5: How often do you visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore properties? (306 responses)

Twenty three percent of respondents reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore two to four times a week; 18% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore once a week; 15% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore everyday; 14% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore once a month; 11% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore once every 6 months; 9% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore once every two weeks; 7% reported visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore once a year; 4% reported never visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

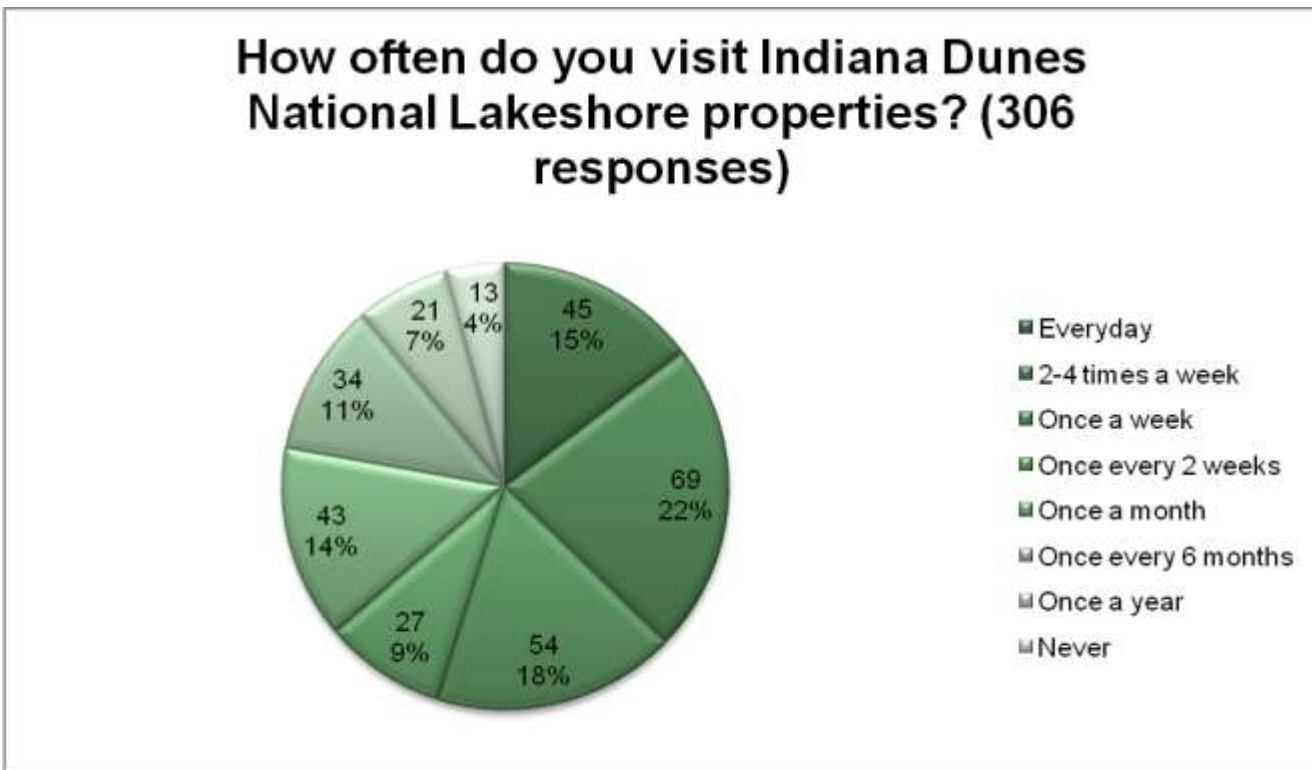


Figure 2: How often do you visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore properties? (306 responses)



Question 6: How often do you participate in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (308 responses)

Forty-nine percent of respondents reported seldom participating in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; 38 % reported almost never participating in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; 13% reported often participating in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; and 1% reported almost always participating in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

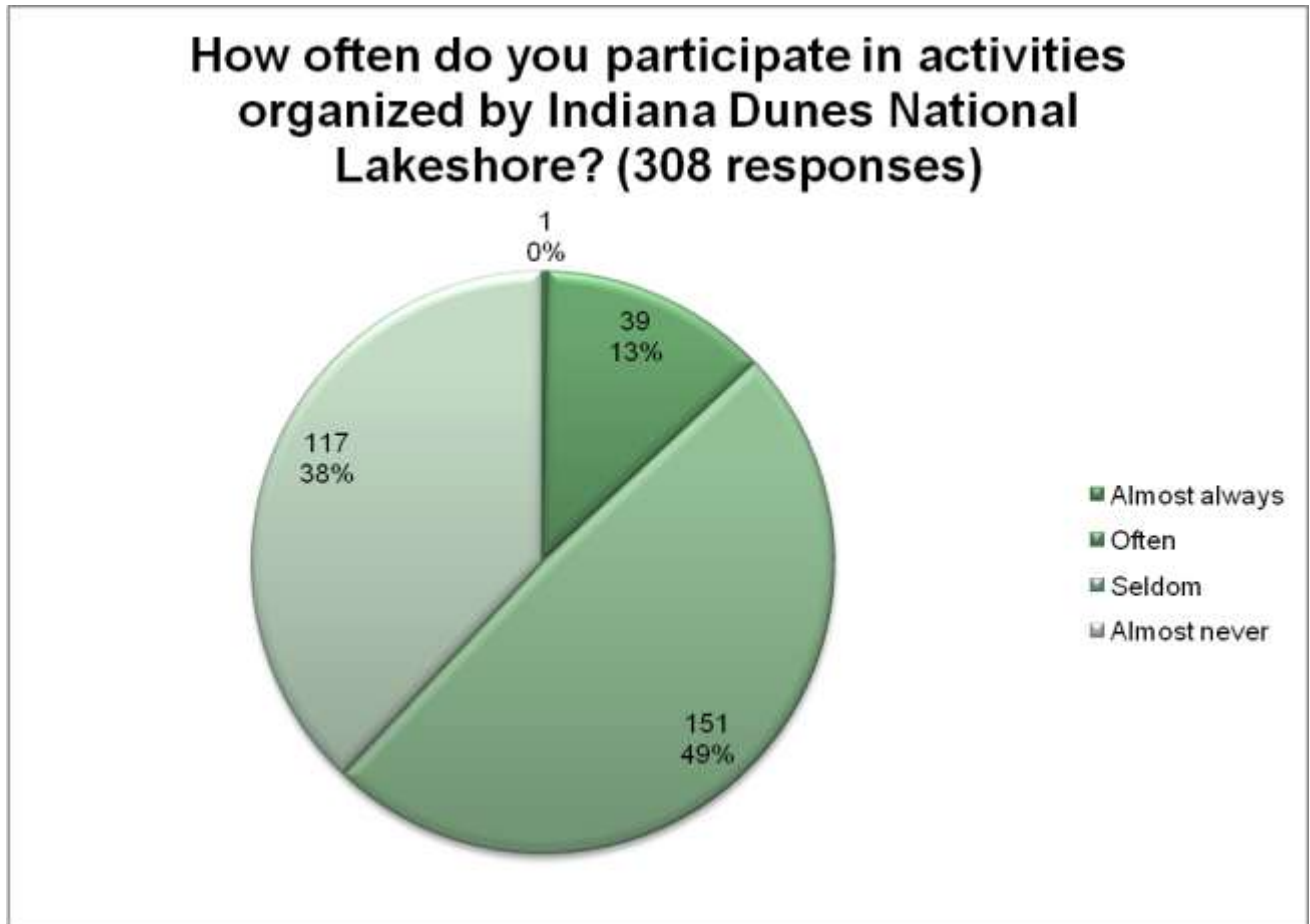


Figure 3: How often do you participate in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (308 responses)

Question 7: How often do you use Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails? (308 responses)

Thirty eight percent of respondents reported often using Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails; 38% of respondents also reported seldom using Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails; 16% of respondents reported almost never using Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails; 8% of respondents reported almost always using Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails.

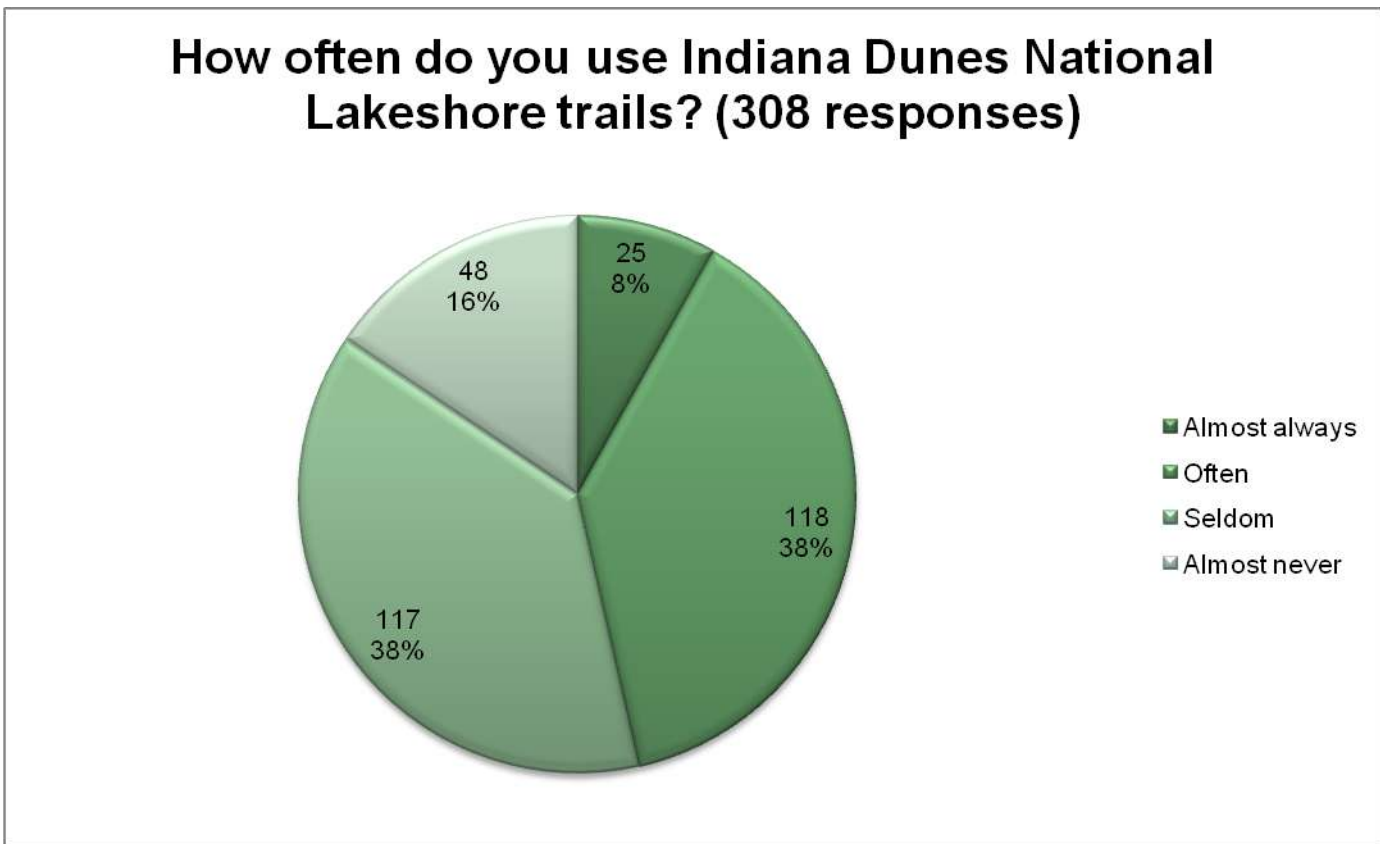


Figure 4: How often do you use Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails? (308 responses)



Question 8: What do you like about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (Check all that apply) (298 responses)

Respondents were asked to check all that apply. When asked what they liked about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 280 respondents indicated they like the natural beauty of the landscape; 242 indicated they liked the beaches; 217 indicated trails; 215 indicated they liked that Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provides a buffer zone for commercial and industrial development; 189 indicated NPS efforts to protect and preserve the land; 116 indicated they liked the educational programs and events offered by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; 89% indicated they like the excellent staff, law enforcement and fire protection personnel. In the “Other” category, more than one respondent stated that the following are things they like about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: wildlife, Chellberg Farm, and unique recreational opportunities.

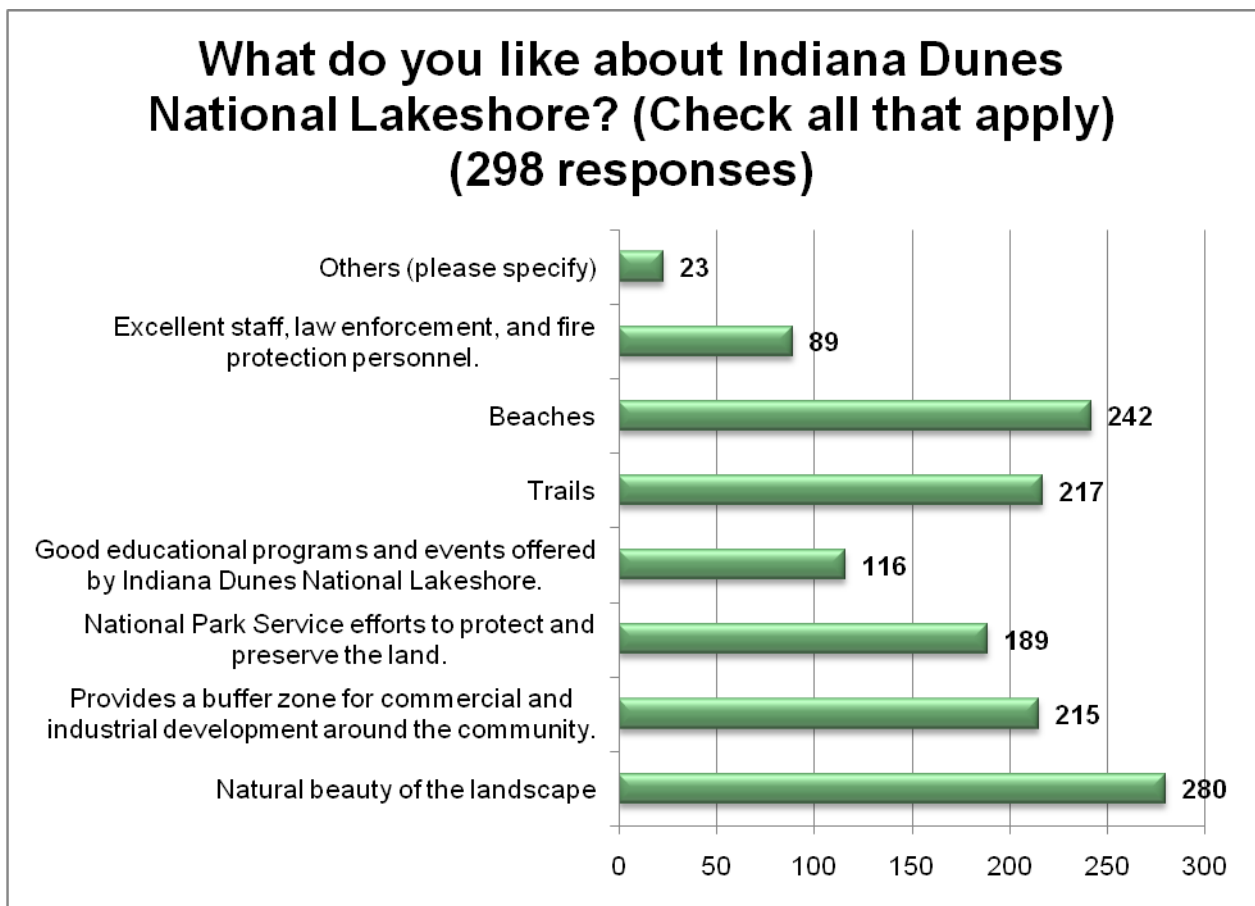


Figure 5: What do you like about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (Check all that apply) (298 responses)

More than one respondent stated that the following are things they like about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: wildlife, Chellberg Farm, and unique recreational opportunities.

Question 9: Overall, I am happy to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a neighbor. (306 responses)

Seventy eight percent of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed that they are happy to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a neighbor; 12% are undecided, 11% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that they are happy to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a neighbor.

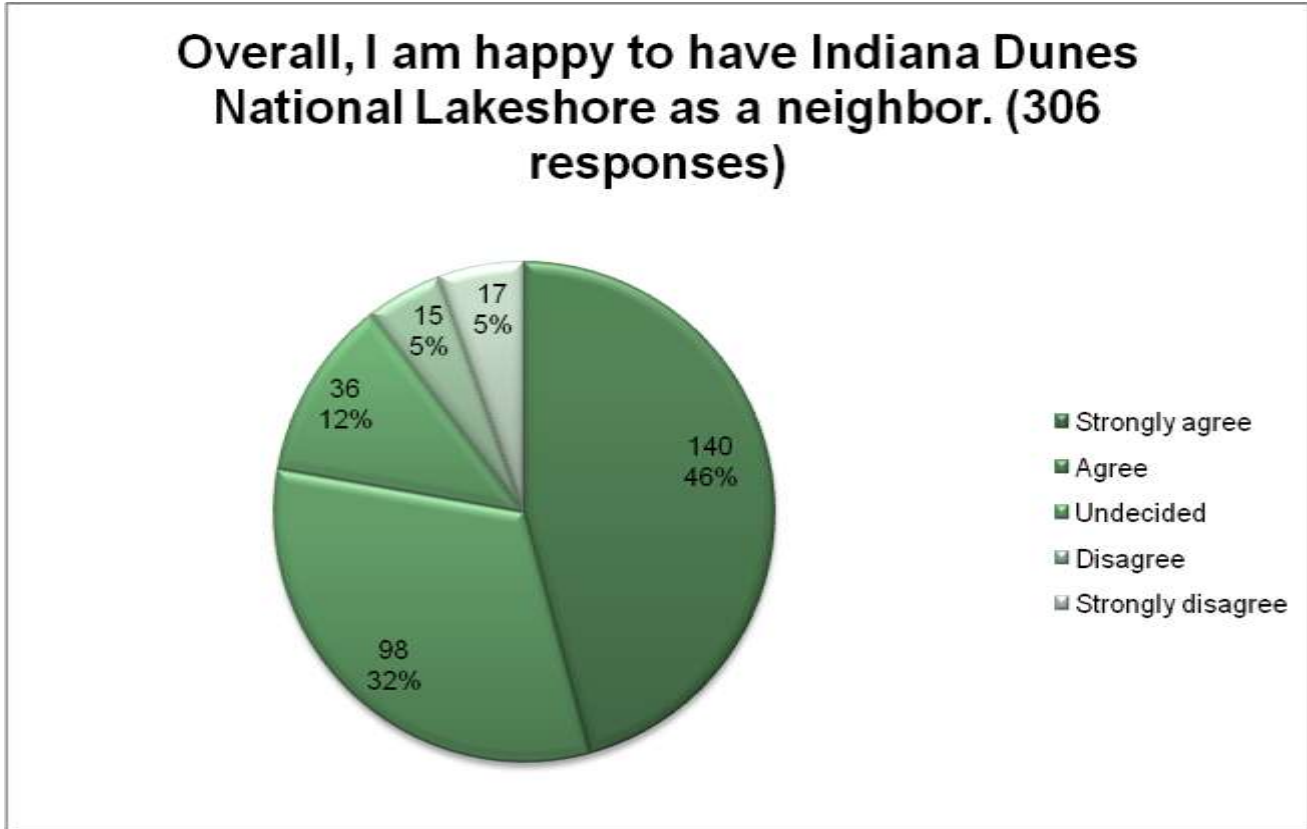


Figure 6: Overall, I am happy to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a neighbor. (306 responses)



Question 10: Which of the following components do you think are part of the National Park Service mission? (check all that apply)(275 responses)

When asked to check all applicable components of the NPS mission, 238 respondents indicated that the preservation component was part of the mission; 162 indicated that the NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource preservation; 145 indicated that the VPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of outdoor recreation.

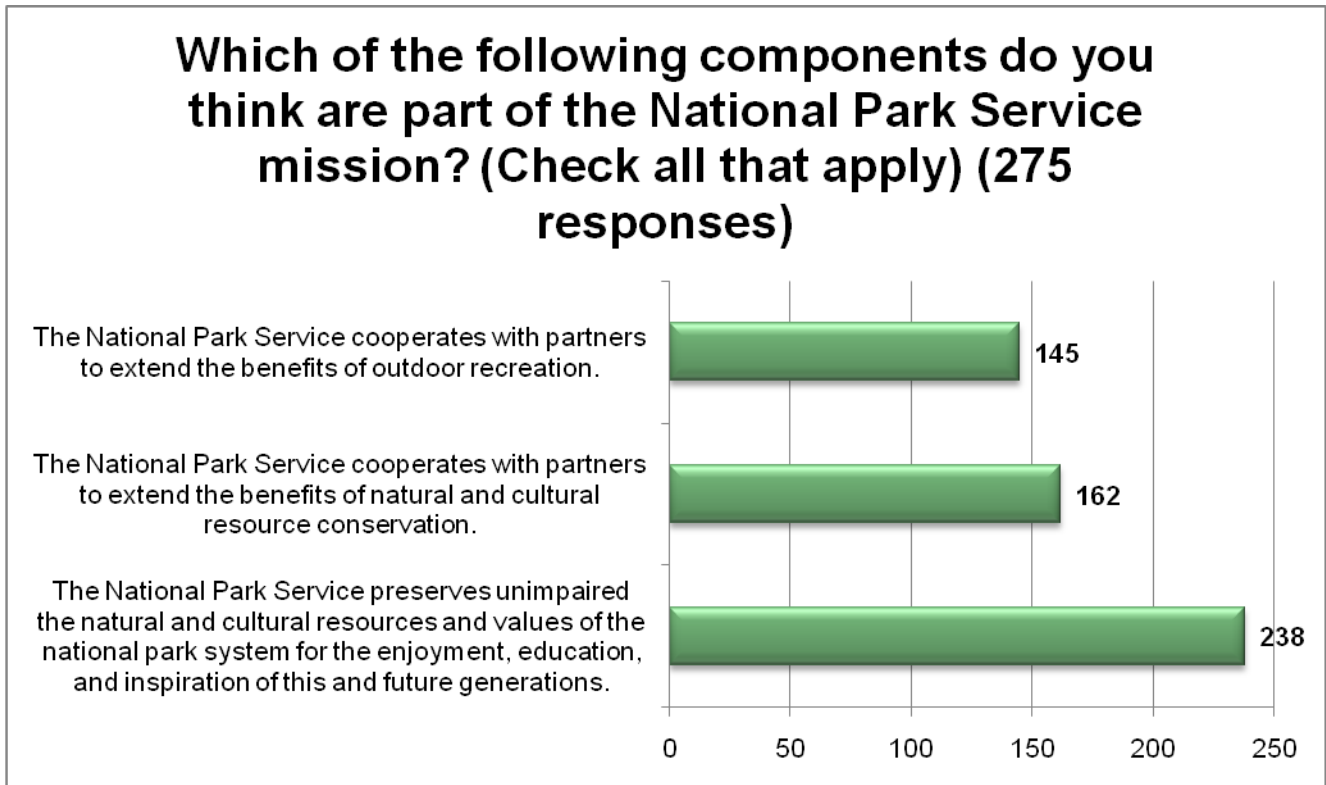


Figure 7: Which of the following components do you think are part of the National Park Service mission? (Check all that apply) (275 responses)

Question 11: What do you think are five things that are going well at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (310 responses)

Residents of the communities near Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore pointed out several items which they see as successfully addressed by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore management. Within each of these categories are several aspects that together paint a clear picture of the perceived success of the National Lakeshore by the neighboring residents.

Survey respondents most frequently lauded the efforts of the Lakeshore staff in their **management and preservation** of the lakeshore environment. Statements were both broad, such as appraisal of the “preservation of the ecologic value of the park,” and specific, such as the burning of Monoke Prairie. Most of the responses were in broad reference to specific aspects of environmental management. These included habitat control, prairie restoration,

maintenance of natural flora and fauna, wetland preservation, beach conservation, and maintaining an undeveloped lakefront.

The next most common response was in reference to general park **maintenance**. This included cleanliness, trail upkeep, infrastructural improvements, beach cleanliness, and park safety. Individual responses included: “Public facilities in the park are well run and maintained,” “Beach kept in excellent condition,” “Good law enforcement with minimum staff,” and “Continued expansion and upgrades.” Residents of the area are clearly appreciative of the **beach** property and the **trails** in the area, both in terms of effective maintenance and of the positive recreational opportunities they provide. Many respondents simply said that the area had “great beaches” or something very similar. Some specified whether it was the public access, the cleanliness, the beauty, or the protection of the beaches that they appreciated. Responses regarding trails were similar. They involved general praise of the trail system as well as specific statements such as the positive impact of the bike trail on the community and tourism.

Educational programming was mentioned frequently as an asset to the neighboring communities. Praise was for “good seasonal programs and special events,” helpful park rangers, specific events and programs, and park literature. **Public access** to parkland and **involvement** in park oversight are essential compliments to educational programs. Respondents illustrated this importance, referencing the natural escape provided by the park, “recreational facilities,” public access, and opportunities for community togetherness.

Question 12: What do you think are five things that are not going so well at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (310 responses)

A greater number of responses, many of which were detailed, concerned issues respondents did not perceive as being effectively addressed by park management. Increased detail led to broader categories of concern with somewhat more varied subcategories. Many of these categories and subcategories mirrored those of the positive results. The general ideas are similar, but some specifics are rarely, if at all, mentioned as positive, such as the closure of the Chellberg Farm. Many recognized the exacerbation of these problems due to underfunding and a lack of resources.

The most common of these issues was insufficient **maintenance** throughout the park. Concerns generally countered the similar positives mentioned above, with the focus largely aimed at safety and law enforcement, beach cleanliness, storm cleanup, road maintenance, and personnel deficiencies such as insufficient lifeguarding staff. Both **environmental and institutional management** appeared frequently as sources of public apprehension. Wildlife control of deer and raccoons, general planning, pet friendliness, infrastructure improvements, and recent flooding seemingly caused by wetland renewal were all frequently mentioned.

Two similar categories were a **lack of communication** between the park and residents and a sense of **community alienation** by the park staff. In general, the local public feels as though they have been left out of park oversight. They perceive park management as being tight-mouthed and reluctant to listen to public suggestion. Many community members cited the



recent change in Park management as the basis for this feeling; they perceive new management unwilling to collaborate to the same degree as previous management.

A large concern was for insufficient or discontinued **programs**, most commonly Chellberg Farm. Respondents also called for more educational and cultural programs to inform visitors about the land and history of the park. Along similar lines, **public access** issues were raised as concerns among residents, including heavy traffic, increased and decreased access fees, parking concerns, extended and restricted hours, insufficient signage, and road conditions unsafe for multiple uses.

Question 13: In your opinion, how can your community and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore work together to alleviate concerns identified in Questions 12? (310 responses)

Almost 80 respondents identified better **communication and collaboration** as being essential to a better working relationship between communities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Many respondents suggested holding regular meetings or participating in already established meetings as ways to create better communication lines or “routine communications.”

Some residents also suggested forming an advisory group. A large number of residents ask that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore listen to the community and partner organizations. Several residents stated that the community should be more involved with decisions made by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore before decisions are made. Several respondents suggested a public awareness campaign and actively using local media (newspapers, newsletters, etc.) to distribute information about the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore or actions that are underway.

Respondents suggested different communication subjects ranging from operations, to fishing, to plant life, to inviting subject matter experts to speak to communities about areas of concern.

- “Arranging a meeting inviting experts from (a university) to come to sessions to discuss water management and flooding with members of the community.”

Many suggestions about collaboration were made.

- “...Identify collective goals jointly and ways to pursue them.”
- “More open discussions regarding expectations on both sides of the issues.”
- “Both parties adopt an attitude of cooperation, not confrontation.”
- “Develop a workable, enforceable plan to address the problems.”

A majority of respondents commenting on collaboration efforts suggested creating a better relational environment. Many respondents perceived that better communication on both sides is needed. Many respondents commented that friendlier dialogue and more good will is needed from park management. Several respondents suggested developing a realistic plan of action and defining mutually beneficial projects.

Also, in the area of collaboration, a large number of respondents suggested creating new **partnerships** and cultivating current partnerships. A large number of responses indicated **support and volunteerism** to be key. Several respondents suggested creating more

opportunities for support and volunteerism through partnerships with schools, organized clean-up days, trails day, and other events. A particular effort was suggested in providing opportunities for youth involvement.

- “Enlist more volunteers for education, park and trail cleanup.”
- “Provide opportunities for support and help.”
- “Lakeshore should invite participation of local families and volunteers for sake of free labor, fundraising, increasing our knowledge of social history in lakeshore area...”
- “Ask for public/private partnerships to bring additional funds into system; explain your mission and long-range plans for area; tap into huge well of support for IDNL by asking local communities and organizations to be part of the decision-making and execution process.”

Several respondents commented on the **NPS mission**. A few respondents stated that the NPS and the communities have incompatible missions. Some respondents stated that the National Lakeshore should refrain from acquiring land or increasing visitor numbers.

- “By having the National Lakeshore keep its focus on research and education and not move into the area of tourism.”
- “Stop taking over private property.”
- “... realize that it is wrong to push people out of their homes to enlarge the park.”
- “By not pushing us to be the entertainment center for the IDNL. We would like to be like Ogden Dunes and NOT have hoards of people OR cars invading our town.”

Two respondents characterized the NPS mission and the perceived community’s position as follow:

- “Both entities want different things. The community wants no visitor impact and the NPS wants to increase visitors and usage. For the 2 months a year, Beverly Shores needs to embrace it rather than being continual isolationists.”
- “You can quit listening to just a few wealthy connected people who live and want to control the beach and give the beach back to the people to enjoy. That’s what the National Park Organization is for.”

Several respondents encouraged the National Lakeshore to be active in promoting environmentally sound and sustainable land management and **natural resources management** practices.

- “Encourage neighbors to modify lifestyle choices in order to reduce the impact on the Lakeshore’s natural systems (eliminate use of lawn chemicals and pesticides, encourage walking/biking and use of the South Shore Line for commuting). Communicate about industry impacts to the Dunes and to our drinking water.”

Some respondents commented on the **park management** at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Among these respondents, the majority suggested that more cooperation and a more people-friendly approach was needed. Also, a few off-color, disparaging comments were made.

- “More cooperation from new superintendent.”

A small number of respondents complimented the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.



“The IDNL has reached out and been accessible, helpful and available. Some of the communities need to reciprocate and partner with the IDNL on mutually related issues.”

Many respondents commented on the Great Marsh Restoration. Comments discussed high water levels; drainage problems; the history of planning the project and the perception that locals were not allowed opportunity for input; mosquitoes; and beavers.

Several residents stated that they would like Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to focus on the **sand** erosion problem at Ogden Dunes.

A few residents commented on enacting a **deer** cull, picking up **trash**, providing more **law enforcement**, bringing back animals to **Chellberg Farm**, inadequate **parking**, and the need for a designated **dog beach**.

Question 14: What would you tell the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent to do differently over the next five years? (310 responses)

A large majority of respondents, (86) stated that they would tell the Superintendent to improve **communication and collaboration** efforts. Respondents suggested actively seeking and creating open channels of communication with communities, to be involved with the communities, to listen to the communities and to long-term residents, to provide outreach for volunteers, and to use media such as newsletters to communicate. Respondents also suggested that the Superintendent be more responsive and that cooperation should be improved through working relationships.

- “Maintain open lines of communication with the surrounding communities.”
- “Listen to those of us who have lived here and work with us to continue the expansion and development of this great Lakeshore.”
- “I believe that the park and the residents should consider themselves partners in the stewardship of public land... We are in this together, so let’s treat each other with mutual respect, intelligence and compassion. Communication is key to making things work both ways. ...”

Concretely, respondents suggested attending meetings and communicating on projects, plans and visions and allowing communities to have input, creating community boards, and seeking out venues to continue communicating “plans, hopes, needs, restrictions, challenges.” Several respondents reported having a perception of knowing about projects when it was already decided they would be implemented.

- “Listen to what people in the communities have to say before making decisions that affect them.”

Several residents suggested that a change of **attitude** by park management is critical to the success of working relationships.

- “Be more open and less confrontational... seeking to work together and more clearly delineating the respective responsibilities of the Park and the Town would help a lot to improve the relationship with the residents of the Town...”

- “Change of attitude at community meetings and work with instead of against all local communities....”
- “Communities want to work with the Lakeshore. Please be more open to communication and compromise.”

A few respondents stated that they perceived that the Superintendent is doing a **good job**.

Several respondents indicated that they would like to see the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to continue to **maintain the natural resources**, focus on habitat management and invasive species control.

A few respondents indicated that they would like the Superintendent to focus on **maintenance and cleanliness**.

A few residents stated that they would like the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to stop **land acquisition** or to communicate the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore’s current position on land acquisition.

- “Quit “taking” private property from our communities.”
- “Be clear that you do not intend to grow the park by acquiring private property against the wishes of the owners.”

Lastly, several respondents suggested that the Superintendent address flooding problems around the **Great Marsh project**.

Question 15: What would you tell your fellow community members to do to better relations with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (310 responses)

The majority of respondents stated that they would tell their community members to work on **improving communication** with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to build a strong working relationship. Methods for improving communication ranged from attending meetings, inviting the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore staff to town meetings, and staying informed through local media. Many respondents stated that communication and the relationship can be improved through team work. Many respondents stated that some community members should be less adversarial, show more compassion and be more open.

- “We have a great asset, let’s work together.”
- “Invite them to our town meetings and communicate.”
- “Become informed about the challenges the NPS always faces, including budget constraints. Ask for public meetings about issues AFTER first seeking some background info, so that the meetings can be productive rather than adversarial.”
- “Articulate a comprehensive master plan of issues and needs in lieu of the on the demand current attitude, forecast the future and develop a strategy for ongoing success.”

Many respondents stated that they would tell their community members to use or visit the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore more often. Several comments suggested that community members should **visit the park** and its different areas to better understand the situation of the park. Many respondents suggested not only visiting the park more often but participating in



programs and events. A few respondents suggested getting to know the park staff better, getting more involved with the park and letting the park administration know opinions on the future of the park.

- “Support the National Lakeshore by visiting more often.”
- “Get out there and use the amenities of the IDNL. If you personally use the system to better your own life and those you love you can appreciate more of what they are doing.”

Many respondents stated that they would tell fellow community members to recognize the community’s privileged position of being in proximity to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

- “Recognize how fortunate we are to live in a community that is surrounded by a national park, creating a wonderful natural buffer... and an excellent recreational venue right on our doorstep...”
- “Realize what National Park means, not Ogden Dunes Park, Beverly Shores Park or Dune Acres Park but National Park and that they are lucky to be able to live so close to it and it’s not solely their playground.”
- “Get over it. The park is here to stay. Instead of whining all the time, find a reasonable way to integrate the park with the community. Not the constant mantra of putting up gates and keeping people out.”

Several respondents stated that they would tell their community members to treat Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with respect.

- “Address the park superintendent with respect when you have concerns...”
- “Voice your concerns in an appropriate manner.”

Several respondents stated they would tell their community members to be more open-minded in relationships with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

- “Not blame IDNL for every inconvenience.”
- “Stop blaming every problem on the IDNL and assuming that every request from/action by IDNL has an evil intent...”
- “Appreciate the efforts that are made that may not always be apparent.”

Some respondents noted that the National Park Service benefits all citizens and is not limited to serving local interests.

- “I am not aware of there being a need to improve relations. It would seem that the people at IDNL work for ‘We the People’ and should be doing all in their power to efficiently manage our National Parks with the interest of the citizens in mind.”

Question 16: Please check the following suggestions that you feel will improve visitor experience at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Please list *additional suggestions* in the "Other suggestions" field. (250 responses)

Please check the following suggestions that you feel will improve visitor experience at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. (250 responses)

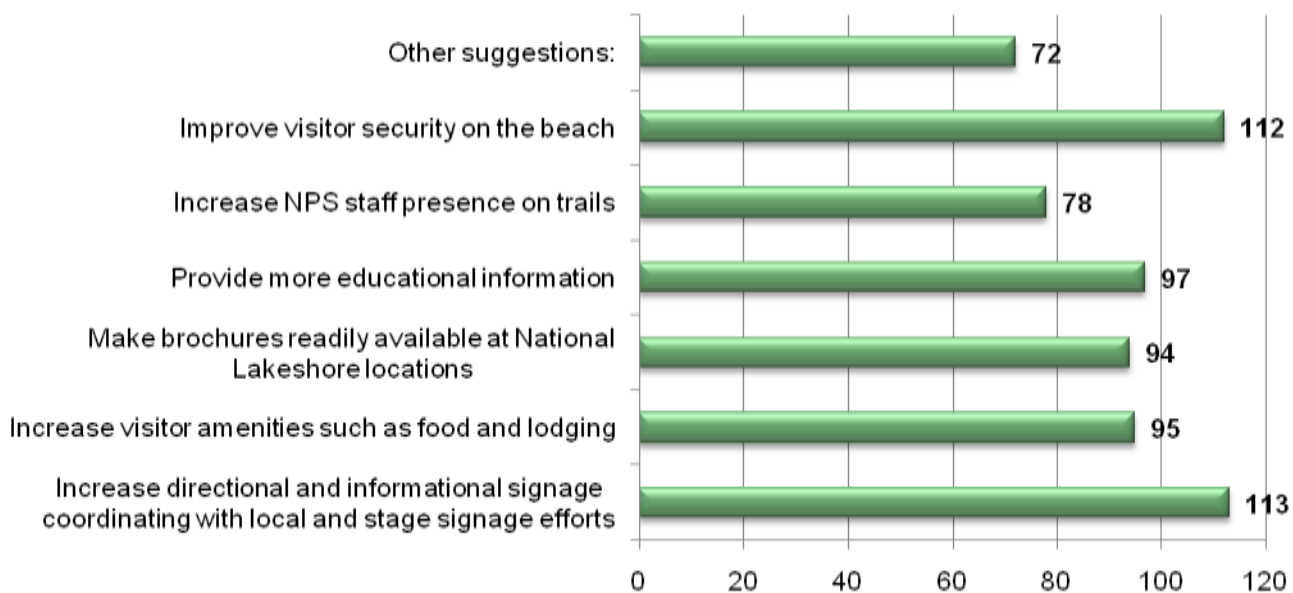


Figure 8: Please check the following suggestions that you feel will improve visitor experience at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. (250 responses)

Other responses suggested by more than one respondent included increasing parking for visitors, providing a shuttle service, providing more trash cans and better coordinating cleanup efforts, and to not increase signage but improve existing signage.

Conclusion

The resident survey was designed and implemented to allow all residents of the four communities an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns as part of the civic engagement process. Many respondents commented directly that they were happy to have had the opportunity to participate in the process because they could not attend meetings.

The survey results resembled stakeholder interview results to an extent, but not wholly. Many concerns were reported on the issues of communication and management transparency. However, many respondents indicated that they recognized both the difficulty of managing noncontiguous lands and managing public lands in close proximity to a large metropolitan area.

Several residents suggested both to the National Lakeshore and fellow community members, move forward with a positive attitude and a willingness to create open, respectful dialogue.



PUBLIC MEETINGS

Methodology

Public meetings were scheduled as the third phase of the project:

- September 28, 2009 with Beverly Shores: 23 participants
- September 29, 2009 with Ogden Dunes: 21 participants
- October 1, 2009 with Dune Acres and Porter Beach: 27 participants

All residents received a postcard invitation to the meeting in their community. Press releases announcing the meetings were sent to local newspapers, community representatives, and webmasters.

The meetings were designed as open public forums for the first 20-30 minutes when residents were able to consult posters presenting issues raised in the stakeholder and survey phases of the project, actions taken by the National Lakeshore to resolve some of these issues and other general information addressing the NPS mission and policy. A copy of all materials presented in the public meetings is included in the Appendices section of this report, including posters and handouts provided.

The meetings then proceeded to a discussion facilitated by an Eppley Institute staff member. Attendees were asked to write on post-it notes issues that were of concern to them. These notes were posted and categorized, and were then addressed by the facilitator and the attendees. The National Lakeshore staff provided insight where necessary. All comments and notes were recorded on flip charts. All notes are reported in the next sections of this report by community.

Beverly Shores Meeting Notes/ September 28, 2009

Post-it notes

Land Acquisition and Jurisdiction

- The NPS does not have authority over land it does not own. Why have a meeting with the NPS allies which turns friends into enemies?
- How does the NPS determine its objectives? What properties are slated? How is their budget set up? Who decided to scrap Chellberg?
- Park plans once last leasebacks expire
- List of properties slated for Acquisition
- Does park have any plans to “checker board” Beverly Shores?
- How do you plan to insure the existing integrity of our town?
- What about de-authorizing instead of purchasing more land?
- Any consideration of land use or acquisition be published in all papers
- Let Irene stay! NPS does itself more harm by evicting her

Parking, Traffic Control, and Road Maintenance

- We seek cooperative efforts regarding road maintenance when the park and its visitors use our roads.

- Mutual responsibility RE: maintenance of roads, especially considering use by park visitors.
- Provide adequate facilities for park guests. I.e., Parking, life guards, snow plowing, police, fire, emergency, etc.
- I'd appreciate park sharing long range goals for parking and facilities in and around Beverly Shores.
- Develop parking solutions to reduce traffic in congested areas of town.
- Encourage bike use instead of cars- provide off beach parking for bikes.
- Work with towns who want to connect parklands through Greenway Trails and Bike lanes, etc.
- Find opportunities to do helpful things which, by law, you don't have to do. Example: Park shovels snow within boundaries. In the past, the drivers have frequently kept their plows down when moving between parcels. No more. Blades are raised on a town which has limited resources. What is the incremental cost of keeping a plow down- compared to loss of goodwill? NB: Dillon's Statement "we can't do work outside."
- Status of East State Park Rd.-Beverly Drive intersection road project?
- The economic impact the park has on our town's resources, i.e., roads, police, fire and beaches.

Resource Management

- Why does the NPS have more facilities than they can maintain?
- If you only buy from willing sellers, you could checker board and undermine our community.
- What does the NPS think that Beverly Shores can do to help the NPS?
- What does the NPS have to offer an underfunded, struggling municipality that already relies on volunteerism?
- Communications – Establish process to tell us exactly what (and why) is happening with the Great Marsh restoration.
- Use National Lake Shore expertise as consultants for town residents who would like to go more "native" in landscaping.
- Replace invasive plants on Beverly Shores town land with native plants.
- Better openings & clarity regarding effects of Great Marsh Restoration on Bev Shores Water problems.
- Sand bypass at Mich. City
- Lake levels are increasing sand bypass to protect beach
- Coordinate picking up beach between town and National Lake Shore. Should we be picking up small pieces and your machines pick up larger ones?
- Install the water control structure that was originally designed to be part of the spillway of the Great Marsh. Water levels in the Great Marsh are significantly higher than originally planned and have not been controlled during times of extreme precipitation. The park has not followed its own recommendations and has ignored a problem that affects roads and residences in this Gateway Community.
- Cooperative beach effort



Programs

- Add interpretive programs, living farms, hikes, etc. that bring value to the communities. This park tends to operate more like an open space buffer than a valuable asset to area residents.
- Identify common issues to communities and park – ID points of convergence.

Communication

- Improve signage between private communities and parkland to mitigate impacts of visitors on private residents.
- Communication – Meet quarterly NPS and Beverly Shores to let Beverly Shores know what goals NPS has, problems Beverly Shores has with visitors, etc. and work together towards solutions.
- How about assigning a park person to our town... a “go to” person who will seek out answers to concerns.
- National Park could possibly host, sponsor, and organize a Northern Porter Co. consortium for Park Bds. (Bev Shores, Porter, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes) to work and collaborate on common outdoor recreation issues/concerns.
- In all communications, resist the impulse to hide behind the statement “the NPS is required by law to...” Laws may be limiting but there are often ways to reach “win-win” within the law.
- Replace telephone number on sign re: Jet Ski at Broadway and Town Plaza- Enforcement of ordinance?
- Create a clear feedback loop – to create feeling that NPS is listening, make summary of everything you heard “at the meeting and how the park is prepared to respond, including what points the park has no intention of responding to” and get suggestion box. Put all responses publically on the web site or some other public venue that is easily accessible.
- Talk with us before you make changes.
- Be flexible and listen.
- Volunteers “stake holders” and should have a say in the work they do- not told to go somewhere else if they have issues with management.
- Beverly Shores is a gateway community: what does that mean to the NPS people?
- Traffic Control – when lots are full, signs to direct to other lots.
- Provide periodical (monthly) bullet point summary to the public summarizing new decisions affecting BS now and in the future, status updates of current open projects (e.g., What is happening on the culvert repair/repaving project at Beverly Drive & Kemil) New make initiatives/Fed Register publications/plan documents with possible impact on Beverly Shores (Beverly Shores government & residents do not have the time, analytic and staff capacity).
- Honesty in negotiations with town of Beverly Shores.

Flip Charts

Priorities

- Quarterly meeting
 - NPS with Beverly Shores to goals, visitor problems
- Initiative- bulleted action list of actions taken – where to get more information
- Light “parking lot full” on highway 12 (signage)
- Beach use 6-8 weeks
 - 90 degrees on the weekend is the peak use, really limited
- Shuttle purpose to avoid congestion, not more visitors
- Great Marsh
 - Community-enhanced
- Communications
 - Transparency
 - Frequency
 - Method
- Close Beverly Drive
 - Close Lakeshore to pedestrians/bikes
 - Old Fire Rd. to loop around
- Busy Weekends- provide human resources to close the parking areas (streets?)
- Issue of Lakeview parking lot open until 11
- Go-to person for the town to serve as a liaison
- Replace telephone number on sign at beach
- Examine bike trails, rack plans, interface with NPS-INDU
- Asked to be included in North Trail and Kankakee Trail
- New part of the Porter Co. trail
- Acquisition – publish or promote land acquisition plans to individual towns
 - Tell relevant town government (in advance) about acquisition
- Daylight
- 2nd in November at Beverly Shores
- Tell people how?
- Park wants to have meetings?
- Feel productive work happens
- High volume weekends, have INDU add additional staffing (i.e., fireworks)
- Don’t close Beverly Drive, Park Ranger at Lakeshore and Beverly Drive, Probably parking at West beach
- 3 island communities
 - 2 maintains integrity of their communities- Beverly Shores does not
 - Daily internet with park and all visitors
 - Difficult
 - Stressful
 - Help maintain integrity of the community

Future of the community in (i.e., Great Marsh Parking Areas)



- Check Dorothy Buell
 - Accept land by donation
 - House passed but not Senate
 - Clarify and inform Beverly Shores officials
- Native plants reformulation ideas for residents, consultants
- Limit invasive species
 - Grant joint invasive species removal process
- Liaison organize volunteers to remove invasive species in Beverly Shores area of INDU property
- No giant parking lot
 - Maybe a parking garage done right could work
 - Busing not allowable - problem
- Expand shuttle parking lot at current V.C. (when torn down)
- Limited parking makes visitation controllable and don't add visitor facilities and shuttles- double edge sword
- Limit number of people who park
 - Who builds the garage
- Publish x number of spaces frequently in a number of sources- direct them to an alternative space
- Signage is terrible, improve considerably
- Emphasize shuttles
- Ample state park parking
 - Can't have it both ways
 - Low-density parking for Beverly Shores
 - Shuttles need to be better throughout and promoted
 - Control movement within a community

Potential Cooperative Projects for Further Discussion

1. Communication

- a. Select an INDU town liaison for communication of town-specific issues and activities
- b. Create a web page that summarizes important issues and activities
- c. Use more informative signage at sites to communicate activities
- d. Use town email trees
- e. Quarterly meetings with residents
- f. Define priority topics of interest (conservation efforts, planning documents, laws)

2. Invasive Species Control

- a. Create a citizens group to work with INDU to monitor and control invasives
- b. NPS provide education and supervision
- c. Citizens provide monitoring, labor, and maintain feedback loop

3. Land Acquisition

- a. NPS policy on land acquisition (not allowed; only contiguous donations)
- b. Privacy rights regarding negotiation of land donations
- c. Create method to alleviate fears of compromising the integrity of the community

4. Parking, Traffic Control, and Road Maintenance
 - a. Define mutual interests of INDU and Beverly Shores
 - b. Explore historical perspective of this issue
 - c. Discuss and agree on collaborative solutions that satisfy these interests (i.e., road closures, create one-way roads, bike/ped only routes, bike parking facilities, vehicle parking, wayfinding signage for when lots are full)
 - d. Focus on peak use time periods

Dune Acres/ Porter Beach Meeting Notes/ October 1, 2009

Post-it notes

Resource Management

- Keep a small, light footprint.
- Why is the deer management study just beginning now? We've been over-stocked for years.
- Testing of water for E-coli.
- Want an environment assessment done on jet skis.
- People walking to Porter Beach from your parking lots walk in the street and obstruct traffic. Sweep the sand off your walk, cut the grass and weeds, and widen the walk.
- Please save the old roads for biking, walking and reminiscing, at least as trails.

Jurisdiction

- Would like "jurisdiction" issues to be clarified.
- Develop a clear policy for what beach access rights are: boating, buoy boundaries, DNR role, enforcement resources.
- Define a code of local citizen rights. What areas are defined as private usage – how to manage borders?

Programs

- Any hope for allowing trail bikes (non-motorized) on any local paths?
- We would like to see Bailey Chellberg Farm resume its educational programs and working farm.
- Volunteers could be better used at the farm, etc. by being able to apply online and show individuals area of expertise.
- Give park volunteers free Dunes State Park entry sticker for volunteering. Would increase use of residents into the Park.
- More strongly support "Dunes Learning Center" as it is now administered. No privatizing.

Communication

- Define NPS development priorities – parking structure, development acquisition plan timelines.
- How does the Marquette plan figure into what you're doing?
- Want Marquette plan to be slowed down or put on hold.



- The Singing Sands that used to be printed by Friends of the Dunes and was mailed out was more informative and seemed to have more activities. I miss it.
- Hate the current newsletter. Bring back the old one. That had useful information
- Institute quarterly meetings with town to create dialog on regular basis.
- Park Service should hold meetings at which residents can question activity of park service- at least quarterly.

Flip Chart Notes

- More information, clear communication
 - Easements – rights (Porter Beach)
- DNR- conflicting messages
 - Safety, enforcement issues
 - Responsibility
 - Land rights vs. Marquette Plan
- Increased public access balanced with local access
- Trail bikes – allowed at West Beach, Calumet Trail
- Saving old roads for trails, some old roads stay
 - Some eliminated because of proliferation of invasive
 - National Lakeshore supports increasing of trails
- For the sense of history/local culture should be part of GMP
- Suggest trails
- Overall Conservation Plan, ex. Mount Baldy
 - Erosion from people, safety concerns moving dune?
- Communicate conservation efforts
 - Increase awareness – website tab
- Use Facebook for communication
- Communication
 - Through town email system cannot use Facebook
 - Park should communicate directly with cities/towns & elaborate email tree
 - 11/8 – 3pm facilitated meeting
- Deer Environmental Impact Study
 - End 12/09- then action on plan
- E-coli – different levels at different locations on same day – combined sewage over flows – rain
 - Jurisdiction testing procedures
 - Beach (e.g., Funds for testing)
- Partnership? Lobby for separate storm water/ sewer systems
- Jet Skis- environmental assessment
- Personal watercraft prohibited in all National Parks, Burns waterway is not in the park
- Special permits can allow
- Jet skis technology changed through 2000
- Jurisdiction -300 ft into lake

Potential Cooperative Projects for Further Discussion

1. Communication
 - a. NPS Limitations for using social networking websites

- b. Create a web page that summarizes important issues
 - c. Use more informative signage at sites to communicate activities
 - d. Use town email trees
 - e. Quarterly meetings with residents
 - f. Define priority topics of interest (conservation efforts)
2. Resource Management
 - a. Cooperative efforts to designate more trails for mountain bikes
 - b. Cooperative efforts to decide about designation of old roads as trails
 - c. Cooperative efforts to identify important historical and cultural resources to celebrate
 - d. Develop a water quality testing plan using shared resources
 - e. Develop a plan to cooperatively lobby appropriate town and city councils for separate storm water systems
 3. Jurisdiction
 - a. Collaborate with NIRPC and IDNR to resolve issues and clarify jurisdiction rights and responsibilities
 - b. Create a citizens' group formed from all shoreline cities and towns that is willing to study and understand the current laws as written and work cooperatively with the local, state, and federal agencies to ensure enforcement according to the laws

Ogden Dunes Meeting Notes/ September 29, 2009

Post-it notes

Communication

- Create Community Board for input
- Come to town council and other community meetings uninvited to participate as a neighbor, not as the government authority
- Communication – have a regular newsletter, website, increase contact and The Times newspaper
- Direct communication with communities
- Relieve my impression that I live in your process
- NPS booth/info at Ogden Dunes events
- Better signage for Portage Lake Front
- Have more and clearly marked walking trails

Programs

- Do an email newsletter on volunteer opportunities and for youth programs
- Education programs for residents geared to residents
- Lack of farm animals at Chellberg Farm. Develop partnerships with interested community groups
- Can you come up with service projects for high school youth on a weekend basis? Perhaps these service projects could be documented in such a way that the students could earn "service credit" at their school



- Train a group of residents on invasive species early detection – rapid response
- Start or continue a “park watchers” program where people volunteer to report crimes or issues

Land Acquisition

- Use condemnation if necessary to acquire necessary lands
- Relationship – NPS and any future plans to purchase factory lands abutting Lakeshore

Resource Management

- Volunteer stewardship opportunities on NPS land surrounding Ogden Dunes
- Home safety within NPS Territory
- To live symbiotically, achieving the mission of the INDL (Farm Ed & Culture, Natural Beauty and economy, residents and visitors)
- Support active legislation to pay for sand bypass system for Ogden Dunes Beach nourishment
- Does the National Lake Shore monitor air quality at various locations within their jurisdiction?
- Would the NPS be engaged in the monitoring of the industrial pollution and its effect on the environment of the Indiana Lakeshore and its environment?
- Work together to solve air and water pollution issues (i.e., pre-coat metals)
- Agree to a one-time test of direct beach nourishment from Burns waterway approach and entrance and then scientific study of impacts
- Beach nourishment
- Lakeshore protection – how to deal and steel mills and their sea walk, sand nourishments of our beach
- Work together to lessen impacts of air and water pollution (especially pre-coat metals)
- Work together to obtain sand bypass system

Jurisdiction

- Where is law enforcement been on the water?
- Informational signage near restoration sites informing us why we need to keep off the dunes
- What could Rep. Visclosky or Senator Bayh and Lugar do to improve and expand the Park? How can we affect their actions?
- Changes to laws

Beach Clean-up

- NPS join Ogden Dunes in regular beach clean ups and pay for it
- Temporary garbage cans at Portage Lakefront
- If you own the beach why don't you remove litter?
- Beach trash
- Work together on pollution prevention programs to reduce beach and park trash

Flip Charts

- Farm/cultural mission better defined and programmed
- Work together with Ogden Dunes to change name to INDU National Park

- Ogden Dunes community bulletin board used to inform (15 cities, etc.)
- Useful meetings – regular basis – quarterly – education items
- Website education links
- Trash
 - Enforce (write tickets) rigorous to build a reputation- long term
 - Educate, too – long-term
 - No garbage cans on River walk auxiliary parking lots?
 - Meeting with INDU & Portage to clarify
 - Disney – Cleanliness begets
- Work together with Ogden Dunes, IDEM and INDU on Quick Kote issues , etc.
 - INDU class II
 - Charlie Morris INDU Contact
 - No enforcement authority but EPA does
 - Inform INDU
- Response for high-water event
 - For hazards
 - Signage needed, dates
 - enforce
- Trash – find a solution
 - West Beach is worst
 - Park picks it up in the morning
- “Who does what”- directionally/phone number, email
- Transparency/access to GMP – Long-range plans and short-range rapid implementation plans
- Better access to the laws/lawmakers-need information-communication and access
 - Some examples of problem issues added and published
- Improve phone system
 - Hour to not get anywhere
 - Publish telephone directory of public numbers
- Community board with representative from all communities
 - Have dialogue-based meetings focusing on mutual interests (purpose)
 - Problematic meetings – public wants this – does not like this – not wanting to be heard – would like action/response
- Invasive species help consultation/education by INDU staff to Ogden Dunes residents
 - Priority issue (marina-burning bushes)
 - Help with deer-proofing homes, landscaping
 - Voluntary effort by residents
- Trust that Ogden Dunes has as much interest in beach (clean, nourish, etc) as the NPS
 - Work to align the mission and interests of Ogden Dunes and INDU
 - Early detection of invasive species and large number of volunteers
- Work with Ogden Dunes to try dredge soil deposition for beach supplement with volunteers for invasive species monitoring
 - Ogden Dunes volunteers will participate in this investigative research sand nourishment – priority
 - No beach on east boarder- time is of essence, NPS join us.



Potential Cooperative Projects for Further Discussion

1. Communication
 - a. Create a phone directory of INDU staff and their responsibility areas
 - b. Create a web page that summarizes important issues and activities
 - c. Use more informative signage at sites to communicate activities
 - d. Use town email trees
 - e. Quarterly meetings with residents
 - f. Define priority topics of interest (conservation efforts, planning documents, laws)
 - g. Create a community advisory board made up of members from all communities

2. Beach Clean-up
 - a. Collaborate to create enforcement plan
 - b. Develop education campaign
 - c. Work together with City of Portage to ensure responsibilities are understood and upheld

3. Invasive Species Control
 - a. Create a citizens group to work with INDU to monitor and control invasives
 - b. NPS provide education and supervision
 - c. Citizens provide monitoring, labor, and maintain feedback loop

4. Beach Nourishment and Industrial Pollution Monitoring
 - a. Define mutual interests of INDU and Ogden Dunes
 - b. Create priority action lists
 - c. Define responsibilities for accomplishing actions

Conclusion

The public meetings provided an opportunity for community residents to voice concerns through a facilitated discussion. All of the concerns were recorded and are reported in this document. Residents expressed the desire to continue to provide opportunities for dialogue with the National Lakeshore. As such, future meetings were planned. Discussion items will be carried over to future meetings so as to continue dialogue and understanding between the communities and to develop creative solutions to problems through mutually-defined projects.

CONCLUSION

Stakeholders, survey respondents and public meeting participants overwhelmingly indicated a lack of awareness of park activities in all areas. Residents report a lack of communication; the National Lakeshore reports many voluntary, as well as other, legally binding, communication efforts. This points to the fact that a link is missing between the communities and the National Lakeshore in terms of information actually getting to the communities.

The initial public meetings with the communities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore facilitated by the Eppley Institute provided a step in the direction of opening dialogue between all residents and the National Lakeshore. The public meetings provided a platform for discussion, addressing issues critical to residents and the National Lakeshore. Subsequent meetings will be held to continue dialogue, to elaborate communication lines, to define mutual projects, to address longstanding issues and develop creative solutions between residents and the National Lakeshore. The next meetings will strive to address issues and define possibilities and limitations, both legal and practical, for the communities and the National Lakeshore.

The following meetings were scheduled as a result of the first round of public meetings:

- November 3, 2009, 7PM Beverly Shores
- November 8, 2009, 3PM, Dune Acres/Porter Beach
- November 9, 2009, 7PM Ogden Dunes

A discussion guide will be developed for all meetings and sent to attendees of previous meetings. Information will also be posted on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore website. Facilitated meetings will continue to be conducted on a quarterly basis.

By working closely on projects defined by both the communities and the National Lakeshore a better understanding of both the communities' concerns and the National Lakeshore's legal obligations, management issues, and obligations to carry out the NPS mission for all citizens will be achieved.

Appendices

APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER INVITATION LETTER

Name
 Title
 Address
 Address
 Address

January 10, 2009

Dear

When Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, the boundary of the park was drawn in a manner that retained private homes and land ownership surrounded or partially surrounded by park land. Over the years, this configuration has led to a variety of challenges for private landowners as well as local and federal government. The National Park Service (NPS) is interested in finding long-term approaches to working with these challenges and seeking methods that will allow us to work with these communities in mutually beneficial ways.

To this end, the National Park Service has contracted the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands of Indiana University to facilitate discussions to address longstanding concerns between Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the communities of Ogden Dunes, Porter Beach, Dune Acres, and Beverly Shores. This process will involve interviews with key community stakeholders such as elected officials, neighborhood associations, individuals, and other affected entities. The Eppley Institute will facilitate community-wide forums/workshops in each area and take other steps to open dialogue between the National Park Service and these communities.

Information collected as a result of these efforts will then be used to develop potential short and long term interest-based solutions between the National Park Service and the concerned communities.

As an independent organization with a long history of working on community issues in Indiana and throughout the country, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands is an objective and impartial player in this effort. Based upon our experience, we applaud the National Park Service for taking this step and are encouraged that we can help bring about a new era of understanding and trust between the NPS and these communities.

Your participation in this process is vital to identifying the core issues and parameters of a holistic, working partnership. Working together with a spirit aimed at success, we are certain this will be a rewarding endeavor for all.

As the first effort in this project, the Eppley Institute will be identifying interested parties and conducting interviews during the weeks of **February 9th-13th at Woodland Park in Portage** and **February 23rd-27th at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center**. Please call the Eppley Institute at **812-855-3095** to schedule an appointment at your convenience during those weeks.

We encourage you to share this invitation with other members in your community who represent not for profit organizations such as neighborhood associations, environmental groups, active foundations, emergency services, etc. who may not have received this letter. Please get in touch with Andrea Titzer at atitzer@indiana.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Wolter



Executive Director

APPENDIX B: STAKEHOLDER GUIDE

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Civic Engagement of Neighboring Communities Stakeholder Questionnaire

Interview Day and Time:
Stakeholders:

Interviewer Initials:

Stakeholder Information

1. How long have you resided in this area?
2. How often do you visit INDU?
3. Do you participate in any programs/activities offered by INDU?
4. What is your overall impression of the Lakeshore?

The Community and the Lakeshore

1. Describe the relationship between INDU and your community (the impact INDU has on the community).
2. What is your biggest concern regarding INDU?
3. How does the public you represent view INDU?
 - a. What are the public's chief complaints?
 - b. What are the public's chief compliments?
4. What is needed to improve this relationship?
5. What is your knowledge of lakefront property ownership laws?
6. What is the public's knowledge of lakefront property ownership laws?



7. Do you ever see/ hear of any conflict between beachgoers/homeowners?

Opinions

1. How could INDU improve visitor experience?
2. How could INDU make its mission better known to citizens of neighboring communities?*
3. What suggestions do you have for INDU to engage the public of your community?
4. What types of programs/activities would you like to see at INDU?

**In this group of questions, we may present the stakeholders with a copy of the NPS mission statement depending on prior stakeholder knowledge and willingness/openness to discuss.*

APPENDIX C: SURVEY LETTER

June 30, 2009

Dear Resident,

When Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, the boundary of the park was drawn in a manner that retained private homes and land ownership surrounded or partially surrounded by park land. Over the years, this configuration has led to a variety of challenges for private landowners as well as local and federal government. The National Park Service (NPS) is interested in finding long-term approaches to working with these challenges and seeking methods that will allow us to work with communities in mutually beneficial ways.

To this end, the National Park Service has contracted the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands of Indiana University to facilitate discussions to address longstanding concerns between Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the communities of Ogden Dunes, Porter Beach, Dune Acres, and Beverly Shores. As an independent organization with a long history of working on community issues in Indiana and throughout the country, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands is an objective and impartial player in this effort. Based upon our experience, we applaud the National Park Service for taking this step and are encouraged that we can help bring about a new era of understanding and trust between the NPS and these communities.

The first stage of the process included interviews conducted in February, 2009, with key community stakeholders such as elected officials, neighborhood associations, and other affected entities. As the second stage of this process, the Eppley Institute is conducting an anonymous survey which is vital to further identifying the core issues and parameters of a holistic, working partnership. Based on the data collected from the survey, the Eppley Institute will as the third stage of this process, facilitate collaboration workshops in each community involving community leaders and NPS officials.

To complete the survey online, please go to the URL below. Enter the respondent key that appears at the bottom of this letter, and then follow the online survey instructions. You will need the respondent key to take the survey. If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to answer the questionnaire on paper, you may request a paper survey by sending an e-mail to eppley@eppley.org or calling 812-855-3095. All surveys must be received by July 15, 2009.

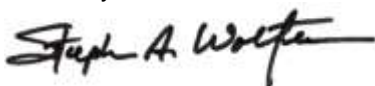
www.eppley.org/civic.html

As a token of our appreciation for your participation in this important survey, upon receipt of your completed questionnaire, the Eppley Institute will enter your name in a random drawing to be held on July 15th, 2009, in which respondents are eligible to win one of two \$25 gift certificates from Lucrezia's Italian Restaurant in Chesterton.

Your answers will be completely confidential. Your respondent key will be used for tracking purposes only. You will need this randomized numeric code to complete the web survey, but once the field period has ended, the code will not be linked to your identifying information and your responses. Moreover, the results of the survey will be reported in a summary format, so again no one will link you to your responses.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important project. If you have any questions about the administration of the survey, please contact Andrea Titzer, Research Associate at the Eppley Institute at 812-855-3095 or atitzer@indiana.edu. Working together with a spirit aimed at success, we are certain that this will be a rewarding endeavor for all.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Wolter
Executive

Director



APPENDIX D: SURVEY

Civic Engagement of Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes and Porter Beach

The National Park Service has contracted the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands of Indiana University to facilitate discussions to address longstanding concerns between Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the communities of Ogden Dunes, Porter Beach, Dune Acres, and Beverly Shores.

The first stage of the process included stakeholder interviews of over 30 community leaders. As the second phase of the process, the Eppley Institute is conducting this survey to gather input from all community members to further pinpoint issues and interest-based solutions. The third stage will include collaboration workshops between the communities and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Your input is highly valued as a property owner in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes, or Porter Beach.

If you would like to be entered into a drawing to receive one of two \$25 gift certificates from Lucrezia's in Chesterton, please enter your email address below. Your email address will be used only for this drawing and all records deleted at the completion of this project. Your answers are completely confidential.

Email address or name and mailing address:

***Please enter your unique key identifier in the box below. (This key can be found on the bottom of the letter you received from the Eppley Institute.)**

Thank you very much for your participation. For each question, please check the appropriate box and/or fill in the brief open-ended responses.

1. How long have you resided in this community?

1-5 years 6-10 years 11-19 years 20 years or more

2. How many nights do you spend per month at your home in Beverly Shores, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes or Porter Beach?

3. How many members live in your household ages 18 and over? _____
4. How many members under 18 live in your household? _____
5. How often do you visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore properties?
 Everyday 2-4 times a week Once a week Once every two weeks Once a month
 Once every 6 months Once a year Never

6. How often do you participate in activities organized by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore?
 Almost always Often Seldom Almost never

7. How often do you use Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails?
 Almost always Often Seldom Almost never

8. What do you like about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? (Check all that apply)

- _____ Natural beauty of the landscape.
 _____ Provides a buffer zone for commercial and industrial development around the community.
 _____ National Park Service efforts to protect and preserve the land.
 _____ Good educational programs and events offered by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
 _____ Trails
 _____ Beaches
 _____ Excellent staff, law enforcement and fire protection personnel.
 _____ Others (Please specify)

9. Overall, I am happy to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a neighbor.

- Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Disagree

10. Which of the following components do you think are part of the National Park Service mission? (check all that apply)

- _____ The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.
 _____ The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation.
 _____ The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of outdoor recreation.

11. What do you think are five things that are going well at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore?

12. What do you think are five things that are not going so well at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore?



13. In your opinion, how can your community and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore work together to alleviate concerns identified in Question 12?
14. What would you tell the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent to do differently over the next five years?
15. What would you tell your fellow community members to do to ameliorate relations with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore?
16. Please check the following suggestions that you feel will improve visitor experience at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Please list *additional suggestions in the 'Others' field*.
- Increase directional and informational signage coordinating with local and stage signage efforts
 - Increase visitor amenities such as food and lodging
 - Make brochures readily available at National Lakeshore locations
 - Provide more educational information
 - Increase NPS staff presence on trails
 - Improve visitor security on the beach
- Others: _____

APPENDIX E: PRESS RELEASE FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

For immediate release: September 16, 2009

Contact: Andrea Titzer

Email: atitzer@indiana.edu

Phone: 812.855.0864

Civic Engagement Project Entering Final Phase in the Neighboring Communities of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University is about to enter the final phase of its proactive Civic Engagement project with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the neighboring communities of Ogden Dunes, Porter Beach, Dune Acres and Beverly Shores to develop stronger and more mutually beneficial relations.

This phase of the project will consist of public workshops which will be held with the communities and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore representatives and facilitated by the Eppley Institute. All residents are encouraged to participate. Meetings will be held as a forum and not in a traditional public meeting format. Meeting dates and locations can be found below.

“We want everyone to have the opportunity to come to a workshop, become informed about results from the first two phases of the project and to work together to define projects and solutions that make sense for the communities and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore,” said Andrea Titzer, Eppley Institute Project Manager and contact person for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Civic Engagement Project.

The Eppley Institute, specifically through this civic engagement project, has implemented a plan to gather and compile information, to inspire dialogue that will allow the NPS to initiate discussion and implement programs and practices that will establish a greater public understanding of the NPS mission, and to foster an atmosphere of trust, collaboration and mutual understanding with these communities.

Phase one of the project was completed in February when the Eppley Institute conducted an interview process among 30 stakeholders from the four communities. This aspect of the project targeted dedicated community leaders whose involvement varied from councilperson to home association board member.

Through these interviews, the Eppley Institute was focused on identifying challenges that faced both private landowners as well as local and federal government that surfaced when the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore’s boundary was initially drawn in a way that retained private homes and land ownership surrounded, or partially surrounded, by park land. The Eppley Institute aims to help the NPS find long-term approaches to handling these challenges that mutually benefit all parties involved and affected.

The Eppley Institute emphasized the importance of individual residents’ participation in a survey among households in phase two of the project, which was completed in July, 2009.

“We are concerned with obtaining the most representative information possible and with that objective would like to give every household the opportunity to provide input during this process. We want to hear from everyone.” said Andrea Titzer.

Workshop Locations: all meetings will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm

- **Beverly Shores:** September 28, 2009, Beverly Shores Town Hall, 500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores



- **Ogden Dunes:** September 29, 2009, Ogden Dunes Fire Department, 111 Hillcrest Road, Ogden Dunes
- **Porter Beach and Dune Acres:** October 1, 2009, Dune Acres Town Hall, 1 East Road, Dune Acres

APPENDIX F: POSTCARD INVITATION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

You are Invited!

Over the past year the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands has been working on a Civic Engagement project to help develop stronger relations between your community and the National Park Service (NPS) at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The final phase of this project is a series of public workshops with residents, the Eppley Institute, and the NPS. All residents of the respective communities are invited to participate. Meetings will be held as a forum and not in a traditional public meeting format to allow meaningful exchange of information and discussion between residents and the National Park Service. The goals will be to establish a greater public understanding between the NPS and the public to foster an atmosphere of trust, collaboration and mutual understanding with your community.



Workshop Locations: all meetings will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm

- **Beverly Shores:** September 28, 2009, Beverly Shores Town Hall, 500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores
- **Ogden Dunes:** September 29, 2009, Ogden Dunes Fire Department, 111 Hillcrest Road, Ogden Dunes
- **Porter Beach and Dune Acres:** October 1, 2009, Dune Acres Town Hall, 1 East Road, Dune Acres



Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands
501 N. Morton Street, Suite 101
Bloomington, IN 47404
(812) 855-3095
www.eppleyinstitute.org

APPENDIX G: HANDOUT FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS – LAND ACQUISITION

Questions and Answers on Land Acquisition in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore August 2009

1. Is the National Park Service (NPS) still buying land and/or houses as part of the park?

Yes. The National Park Service will purchase private property within the national lakeshore subject to available funds.

2. Does the NPS use condemnation to acquire property?

Not at present. The NPS has acquired property by condemnation in the past, but no property has been acquired by condemnation in more than 12 years. At present, the NPS is acquiring land only from willing sellers.

3. My house is outside the park boundaries. Will you buy it if I want to sell it?

No. The NPS cannot purchase property outside the established park boundaries. Park boundaries are established by Congress.

4. My property is outside the boundary, but abuts the boundary. Can I give it to you?

Yes. The NPS can accept property outside the boundary by donation if the property directly abuts the park. We cannot buy it.

5. Is there a tax benefit to donating my property?

There is often a tax benefit to donating land to the National Park Service. Tax conditions related to your situation would be something you would want to explore with your lawyer or accountant.

6. If my property is in the boundary and I want to sell it who do I contact?

Real estate management is handled by the National Park Service's regional office in Omaha, Nebraska. If you are interested in selling your property you should first contact the national lakeshore directly by calling 219-395-1699. We can then direct you to the appropriate office in Omaha.

7. What is a Reservation of Use and Occupancy (RUO)?

An RUO is a property that the NPS has purchased with provisions that allow the former landowners to remain on the property for a period of time specified in their Warranty Deed. The

United States pays a reduced purchase price to account for the value of the retained use. This acquisition tool saves taxpayer dollars and allows the former owner to continue to enjoy the property for a set period of time, usually 20 years or more.

8. Will you be evicting people from their RUO homes?

These properties belong to the United States. The NPS paid for these properties and the previous owners retained the use for whatever time was specified in their Warranty Deed. Many of these contracted residencies expire in the next year. A significant number will expire on the same date: September 30, 2010. Occupants must vacate properties by that date. The NPS does not have the legal authority to extend or modify contracts.

9. Do you own these houses or does the occupant?

As noted above, these houses belong to the United States. The owners were paid for the property many years ago and retained the right to live in them until as specified in their Warranty Deed. At that time, they must vacate the house. This is no different from you buying a house and expecting the current occupants to turn it over to you.

10. Do you pay for the occupants to move or find another place to live?

Original owners who sold their property to the National Park Service and retained the right to live on the property to the end of their contract period are entitled to moving expenses. The Midwest Region Land Management Office will work with the landowner on this process.

11. What do you do with the houses once they are empty?

Most of the houses are removed and the land is restored to its natural condition. Much of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was once private property and returning land to its natural conditions is how the park came to be. Sometimes the NPS will convert the property to administrative use such as offices or storage.

12. Can I remove certain items from a vacant structure?

The houses that become vacant are federal property. We do not grant permission to individuals to remove items from vacant structures due to safety and liability issues. Removing items from federal property is a federal offense.

13. Will you use any of the RUO properties for government employees to live in?

No. None of the properties will be used for employee housing.

14. What if the buildings are historic?

If a building is determined to be historic, the NPS will not tear it down unless it is unsafe. If the historic structures are sound, the NPS will seek to find a use for the buildings. This might include use by visitors, by park partners, or for administrative use.

15. Can you rent the houses for others to live in?

No. We cannot and do not rent park buildings to others as residences.

16. How come people live in the Century of Progress Homes (World's Fair Houses) in Beverly Shores?

These are historic buildings (the houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places). The NPS did not want to remove these buildings because they are historic. On the other hand, the NPS did not have funds to restore them and they were deteriorating. The NPS entered into an agreement with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI) to lease these buildings to private citizens who agreed to repair and renovate the homes. The homes must be renovated to standards set by the NPS and they do not acquire any ownership in the buildings or properties. However, in exchange for the cost of restoring the homes, the individuals are allowed to live in them for a specified period of time. This is usually a time commensurate with the expense or restoration. Most of these leases are for 30-60 years.

17. Can I see inside these homes, they belong to the United States?

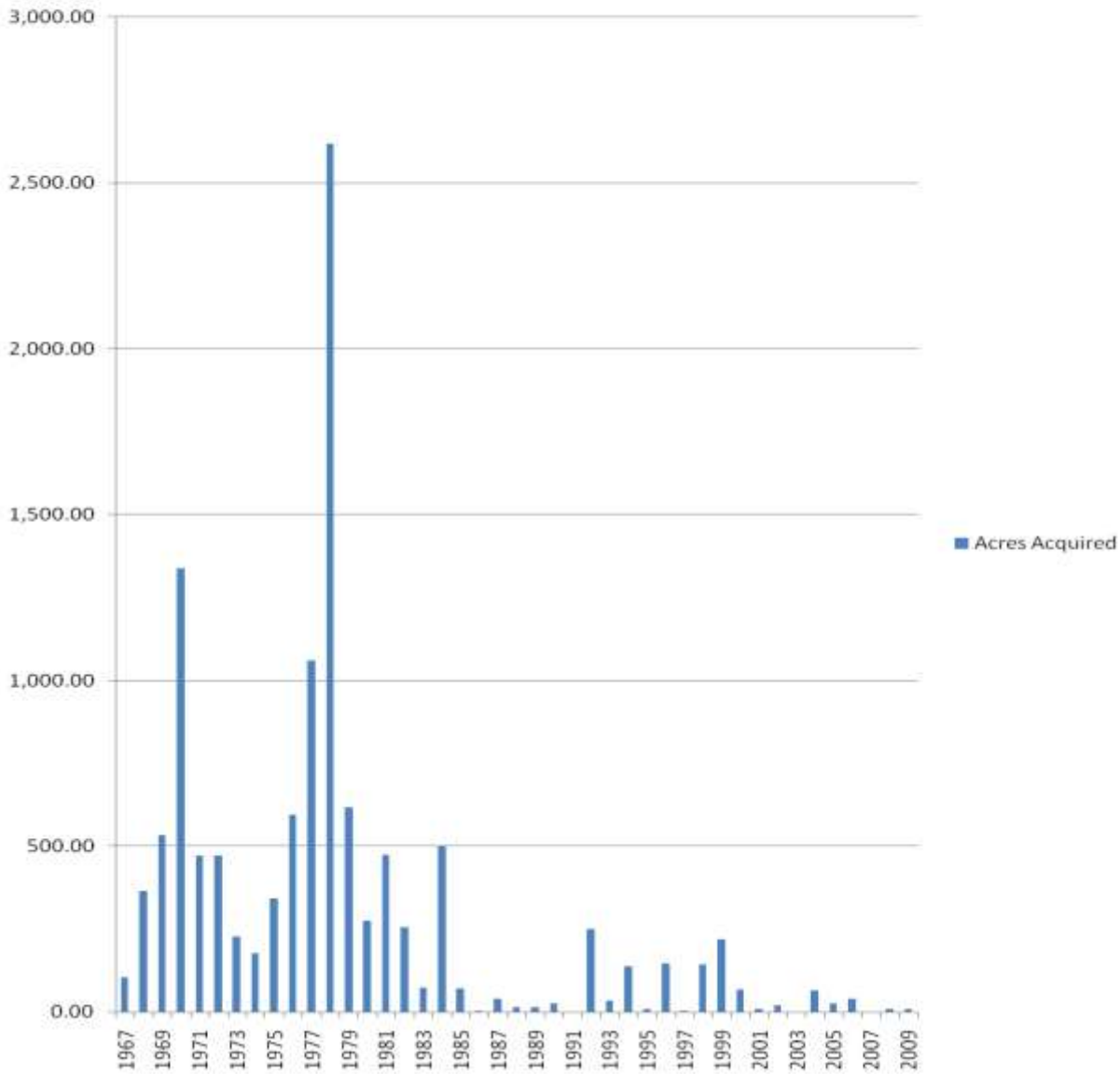
Yes. The leases require that the homes be open to the public one day a year. We usually hold these open houses in the late summer or early fall.

18. How can I find out about these open houses for the Century of Progress Homes?

The National Park Service will announce these open houses in the local media and there will be a specific time period to sign up for the tours.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Lands Acquired by Year

(Includes purchase, donation, transfer, and condemnation.)



- More than half the acres the park has acquired were acquired by 1977.
- 90% of acquisitions were acquired prior to 1991.

APPENDIX H: HANDOUT FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS – JURISDICTION

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Jurisdiction September 2009

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was authorized by Public Law 89-761 in 1966. The park boundary incorporates all lands and waters identified by that law and subsequent legislation adding to the park.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore boundary is a designated line along the lakefront from the Bailly Generating Station to Crescent Dune. The entire lakefront in this span, from the designated line on the south to 300 feet into the lake from the waterline, is within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

In 1996, federal regulations changed NPS authority in waterways. [August 4, 1996 Final Rule, Federal Register] The 1996 rulemaking clarified that NPS regulations contained in 36 CFR parts 1 through 5, part 7, and part 13 (including the 14 enumerated regulations) apply on navigable waters within park boundaries regardless of jurisdictional status or land ownership. This includes regulations regarding boating, fishing, dogs, use of motorized vehicles, protection of natural features and wildlife, and special events.

Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.2 (a) 3 gives notice of National Park Service jurisdiction in this area:

“Waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States located within the boundaries of the National Park System, including navigable waters and areas within their ordinary reach (up to the mean high water line in places subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and up to the ordinary high water mark in other places) and without regard to the ownership of submerged lands, tidelands, or lowlands.”

In other words, the NPS exercises authority over these areas (defined as navigable waters) irrespective of ownership of the land. At present, the “Ordinary High Watermark” for Lake Michigan is defined as 581.5 feet above sea level.