

# Ambler Flatwoods

## Conservation Action Plan *Factsheet*



Salamander, cardinal flower and birch trees are among the many species that live in Ambler. (Photos by Ron Trigg)

### Site Significance

The Ambler Flatwoods Complex (i.e. Ambler) covers approximately 1400 acres in northern LaPorte County, Indiana. It contains the best example of boreal flatwoods in Indiana. It also boasts high quality natural resources and relatively undeveloped surrounding areas. Opportunities for every day recreation and the ability to witness wilderness in an urban setting is a major draw to this landscape.

### Conservation Targets

Conservation targets for Ambler include mesic forests, floodplain forests and boreal flatwoods. Ambler is the southern most extent of boreal flatwoods and is home to many species that are rare in Indiana. The hydrology of Ambler also provides significant habitat for amphibians, including a diverse assemblage of salamanders.

### Conservation Threats

There are several threats to conservation in Ambler. They include fragmentation, development and climate change. These threats will intensify over the coming decades due to high regional growth projections.

### Conservation Partners

The Ambler Flatwoods Complex is managed by several conservation partners including Shirley Heinze Land Trust, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-Division of Fish and Wildlife, Michigan City Parks Department, Tyron Farm Institute, Save the Dunes, Flora Richardson Foundation, LaPorte County Park Board/Conservation Trust and private owners. Each partner has a significant contribution to make toward the conservation of Ambler Flatwoods.

## Conservation Strategies

"Conservation Classes," graded according to their conservation potential, enable land managers to strategize conservation priorities. Utilized here, these rated classes identify opportunities for achieving the best conservation outcomes. They include management and restoration (Class A), land acquisitions (Class B) and increasing connectivity and buffering for existing natural areas (Class C). Additional strategic tools include policy development and stakeholder engagement. Collectively, these strategies are a guide to conserving Ambler.

**Conservation Class A:** Management and Restoration of Existing Protected Lands

**Conservation Class B1:** Acquisition of Land that Contributes to High-quality Natural Resources

**Conservation Class B2:** Acquisition Outreach Strategy

**Conservation Class C:** Incorporate Conservation Priorities into Municipal Planning

**Conservation Class C:** Increase Connectivity through Right-Of-Ways, Trails and Recreation

#### Additional Strategic Tools

-Development of policies that protect natural resources against development pressures

-Enhance awareness and appreciation of landscape to cultivate local stewards



Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve. (Photo by Ron Trigg)

The Conservation Action Plan for Moraine was prepared collaboratively by:

CALUMET COLLABORATIVE | THE FIELD MUSEUM | THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
SAVE THE DUNES | SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST

Funding provided by:

