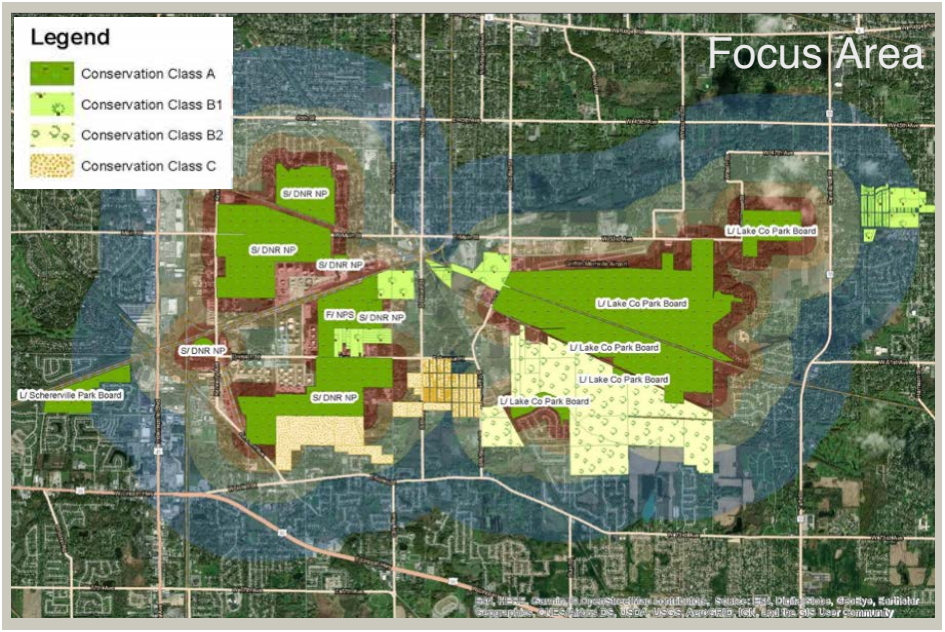
Hoosier Prairie

Conservation Action Plan *Factsheet*



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. Collevtively, these strategies are a guide to conserving Hoosier Prairie.

Conservation Class A: Management and restoration of existing protected lands.

Conservation Class B1: Acquisition of land that adds to existing conservation areas or serves as buffer zones that protect conservation priorities from future development.

Conservation Class B2: Acquisition or other means of land protection that have the capacity to connect nature preserves, recreaction sites and/or trails.

Conservation Class C: Incorporate conservation priorities into municipal planning and increase connectivity by incorporating working lands such as ROWs (Right-of-Ways).

Additional Strategic Tools
Development of policies that protect natural resources and outreach activities that cultivate local land stewards.

Wild white indigo at Hoosier Prairie (Photo by River Valley Photographic Services)

Liatris species nestled in the Prairie blooms mid-summer. (Photo by Ron Leonetti)

Hoosier prairie is one of the last intact prairies in Indiana. (Photo by Christopher Jordan)

Site Significance

The Oak Ridge/Hoosier Prairie Complex (i.e. Hoosier Prairie) covers approximately 2000 acres in north-west Lake County, Indiana. Hoosier Prairie is a refuge for high-quality biodiversity and numerous prairie habitat types in the midst of an otherwise urban lanscape. Regional trails also meet here and provide unique opportunities for area residents to engage with nature.

Conservation Targets

Conservation targets for Hoosier Prairie include oak savanna, mesic sand prairie, wet prairie, sedge meadows and marsh habitat. Not only do these areas host a great diversity of plants, they are also prime nectaring and host-plant refuges for many pollinator species including butterflies, bees and moths, some of which are in decline.

Conservation Threats

There are several threats to conservation in Hoosier Prairie. This includes fragmentation, development pressures, invasive species and water pollution. Strategies identified here will help to overcome these threats.

Conservation Partners

The Oak Ridge/Hoosier Prairie Complex is managed by several conservation partners including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-Division of Nature Preserves, National Park Service, Lake County Parks Department, and various utility companies, railroads and other private owners.The conservation action plan that accompanies this factsheet will enable these partners to identify strategic priorities and implement conservation action.

The Conservation Action Plan for Hoosier Prairie was prepared collaboratively by:
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