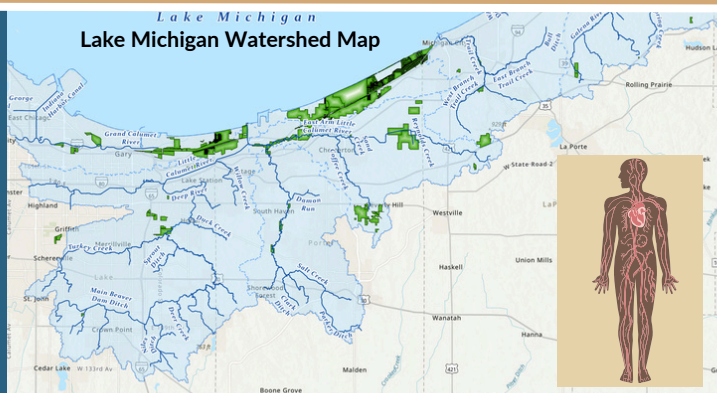


# LIVING IN THE DUNES

## Coastal Resiliency in Northwest Indiana You Live in a Coastal Community!

- Within the Lake Michigan Watershed, all streams and tributaries carry water to Lake Michigan, much like our veins carry blood to our heart
- As a member of the Lake Michigan Coastal Community, your actions have big impacts on our region's Coastal Resiliency
- Coastal Resiliency is the ability to respond, withstand, and adapt to the impacts of natural hazards within the Lake Michigan Watershed
- Save the Dunes has created a series of guides to help you learn about different coastal resiliency topics, and how you can be a coastal advocate in NWI
- This factsheet will focus on the dunes region, which refers to living anywhere in the Lake Michigan watershed



## Did You Know?

- As of 2023, the Indiana Dunes National Park is the fourth most biodiverse national park in the United States!
- We all have a role to play to protect the incredible biodiversity found in our region!



## Free Resources for Living in the Dunes

- Check out our Living in the Dunes
  - Volume 1
    - A Homeowner's Guide to Landscaping in Indiana's Dune Communities
  - Volume 2
    - A Homeowner's Guide to Pollinator Garden Landscaping in Indiana's Coastal Communities



## Living in the Dunes and Coastal Resiliency

- Know your habitat and how to care for it
  - Remove invasive species from your property
  - Plant natives!
- Reduce, refuse, reuse ..... and if all fails recycle!
  - Install rain barrels to recycle rainwater
  - Use reusable bags, water bottles, and utensils when recreating to avoid single use plastics
- Support wildlife in your backyard!
  - Avoid using pesticides and chemicals on your lawn, these kill important insects and wildlife
  - Turn off lights at night, which can harm nocturnal insects and animals. Invest in motion activated security lights
  - Don't use poison traps outdoors. This kills the animals slowly and poisons other predators that eat them such as birds of prey
  - Look into pollinator and wildlife friendly practices when it comes to garden cleanup, know how your gardening affects wildlife
  - Don't feed outdoor cats, they eat other critical wildlife



# What Ecosystem do you Live in?

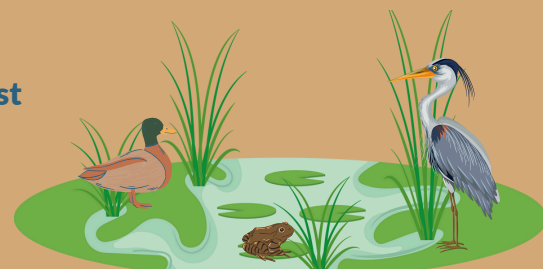
- **A lot of trees - Forest**

- When gardening, choose native plants that prefer canopy shade
- Protect forest wildlife and their habitats
  - Do not destroy native trees or shrubs that they use for nesting and food
  - Deadwood helps protect wildlife and offers both shelter and food to many species



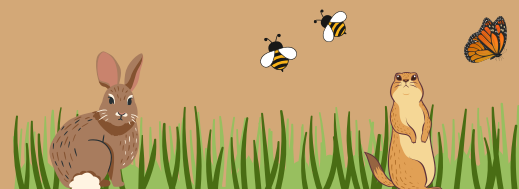
- **Wet areas or moving waters - Wetlands**

- Do not disturb privately owned wetlands, they are one of the most rare habitats and have limited protections in Indiana
- Keep pets away from any water fowl, they use wetlands for breeding and nursing their young



- **Open areas - Prairie**

- Plant native trees and shrubs to create additional habitat types for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife
- Consider converting part of your lawn to a prairie planting
  - Prairies benefit critical wildlife such as native birds and insects



## Shoreline Homeowner Tips

- Understand the consequences of removing sand and plants from the shoreline
  - Plant roots hold the dunes in place, if you remove these natural defenses this can lead to erosion and increased flooding



- Do not create social trails, only use public access sites to recreate on the beach
  - Marram grass helps with erosion issues



- Make sure you take extra steps to ensure any construction projects near the lake are not detrimental or too close to the shoreline
  - When house hunting, consider coastal erosion issues such as lake level fluctuation and choose homes further away from the shoreline



## What Does Save the Dunes Do?

- Our vision is that the Indiana dunes, Lake Michigan, and surrounding natural areas are protected in perpetuity while achieving a sustainable balance between nature and the human-made environment. We envision a region of environmental stewards who celebrate and protect our areas' natural assets for current and future generations
- Learn more about our work and all our free resources at [savedunes.org/AdvocacyResources](https://savedunes.org/AdvocacyResources)

