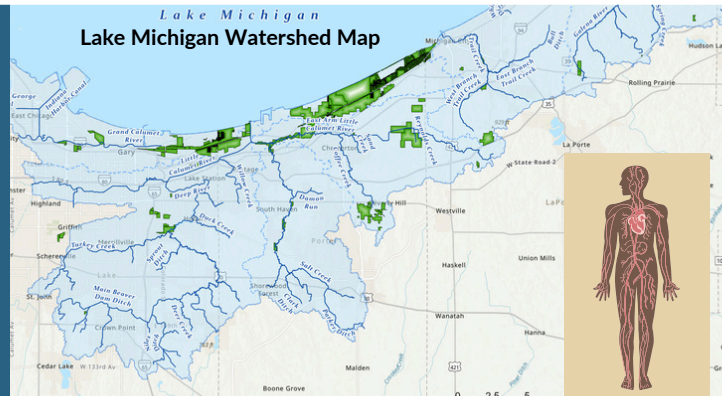


PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

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 biodiversity, which refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi



Pride of Place!

- Indiana Dunes National Park is the only national park in our state
 - It is the 4th most biodiverse park in the entire country with 10 different types of habitats!



- Our region has over 1,000 plants and more than 300 bird species that visit per year
- We all have a role to play to protect the incredible biodiversity found in our region!

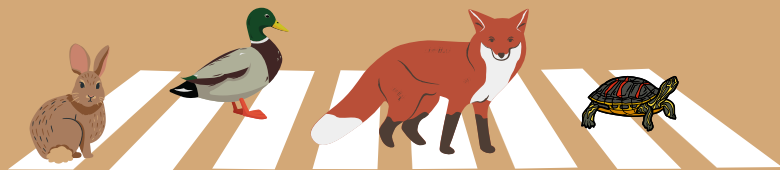
Did You Know?

- Many plant and animal species struggle to move between natural areas because they are broken up by roads, development, and industry in our region
- You can help provide safe spaces for them to pass through by creating habitat in your yard



Protecting Biodiversity and Coastal Resiliency

- Fragmentation
 - Occurs when large blocks of habitat are cut into smaller pieces by development such as roads or housing
 - Increased fragmentation puts stresses on plants and animals and hinders their migration and movement in nature, and impacts the ability of the environment to withstand threats such as flooding



- Habitat Loss
 - Occurs due to development and pollution
 - Wetlands, forests and other ecosystems support the high diversity of life in our region
 - Plants act as resilient buffers to increasing storm events, and less diverse areas are more vulnerable to climate change
- Invasive Species
 - A non-native plant that infests natural areas and causes environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health
 - They can create monocultures that do not support the diversity of life



What Can You Do To Help?



Doing Our Part!

Save the Dunes is working with the Indiana Dunes National Park and NIPSCO to create pollinator habitat improvements across our region!

• Do Not:

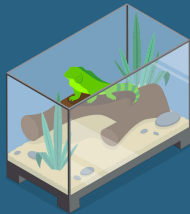
- Introduce new species into the ecosystem
 - This can be done by putting live bait into the waterways or spreading seed



- Remove seeds from protected natural spaces



- Release pets into the wild
 - This can introduce new predators and disrupt the ecosystem



- Plant Invasive Species on your property



• Do:

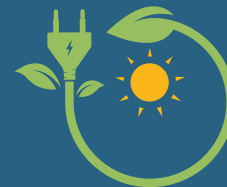
- Familiarize yourself and remove any invasive species from your property



- Create natural habitats
 - Animals need natural habitats to raise their young, drink water, find food, and have safe shelter options

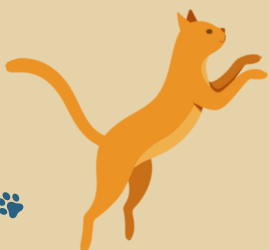


- Increase and/or support green infrastructure projects in your town/city/community



Did You Know?

Outdoor cats kill birds at an alarmingly high rate, with an estimated 1.3 to 4.0 billion killed annually, and mammal mortality likely between 6.3 to 22.3 billion individuals



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

