SAVE THE DUNES
2024 UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2024 was another great year of growth for Save the Dunes! Our staff and board worked tirelessly to carry out our mission of protecting and advocating for the Indiana Dunes and surrounding natural areas through our work in Advocacy, Conservation, and Community Engagement.

This year we deepened our partnership with the Indiana Dunes National Park and increased land management on Save the Dunes properties, focusing on invasive species removal at two of our properties in LaPorte County. We also continued our legal defense of the Public Trust to protect our Indiana shoreline from unchecked development.

We completed renovations at our headquarters - the historic Barker House, saw the return of our summer internship program, and began cataloging a plethora of historic maps, documents, and artwork currently housed at our office. Read on to learn about some of our project highlights from 2024!





62.6 ACRES OF RESTORATION ON SAVE THE DUNES PROPERTIES

RESTORED FRONT PORCH AND JULIETTE BALCONY, REPAINTED ORIGINAL SIDING, BEGAN REPAIRS INSIDE BARKER HOUSE



ADVOCACY

- Save the Dunes staff and volunteer advocates traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby members of Congress during Great Lakes Day to fund federal programs that benefit Lake Michigan.
- Completed our informational series on Coastal Resiliency, educating NWI community members of their impact on the Lake Michigan Watershed. Check out the recordings on our Youtube page.
- Increased our state level advocacy, especially wetland protections, and geared up for the 2025 session.

ADVOCATED FOR FUNDING THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE, ASKING FOR $425M

SUBMITTED 9 COMMENT LETTERS ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS THIS FALL

CONSERVATION

- Our staff continued to convene partners and strengthen relationships to achieve landscape-scale conservation. We administered collaborative grants with partners on projects ranging from invasive species removal across the region to logjam clearing on the East Branch of the Little Calumet River.
- We forged a new partnership with U.S. Steel, and will be working to treat wetlands at their Gary Works property adjacent to the Indiana Dunes National Park.





OVER 456 ACRES OF RESTORATION ENABLED THROUGH COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

OVER $365K OF FUNDING DIVERTED TO PARTNERS FOR RESTORATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- We completed our advanced recycling project, collecting 1000lbs of plastic bags and other soft plastic films from community members. In exchange for our collections, we recieved a recycled plastic bench in tribute to past Save the Dunes President, Jeanette Neagu.
- Hosted several volunteer days at the National Park and to clean up the Barker House grounds.
- Installed our community focused native pollinator garden.
- Secured funding for the Great Lakes Odyssey Expeditions in Education program for the National Park and Great Lakes Research Center which traveled to 6 National Park Sites and reached 103 schools and 12,789 virtual students including 134 onsite students.

COORDINATED 44 IN-PERSON OR ONLINE COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOSTED 130 VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, DONORS, & CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

221 MEMBERS

212 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

38 CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS

TOTAL OF $355K IN FUNDRAISING

BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1, 2023 - NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Save the Dunes

444 Barker Road, Michigan City, IN 46360 - 219-879-3564 - www.savedunes.org