

Town of Dune Acres

Restoration of Town Park A & Habitat/Hiking Corridor

OBJECTIVES & MEASURABLE GOALS

- ▶ To restore roughly four acres of dunes habitat threatened by over-shading, the encroachment of invasive plant species, and fire starvation.
- ▶ To help preserve globally-imperiled dry-mesic sand savanna for the benefit of the general public throughout the coastal area of Indiana.
- ▶ The goal of the project is to initially reduce tree canopy by 30-40% and achieve a 95% reduction in invasive plant species, measured after 36 months.

PROJECT SITE:

Dune Acres' 3.5-acre Town Park A plus 1000' linear feet of habitat corridor. Town Park A is bordered by Mineral Springs Road on the east, Shore Drive and Oak Drive on the north, and private property on the west and south. The habitat corridors run from Town Park A west to Town Park S and south to West Road.

History & Ecology:

The site has been preserved as a natural area since the incorporation of Dune Acres in the 1920s. It provides important habitat for a diversity of dunes flora and fauna. The plant assemblages approximate the Lee Side Dune Forest (as described by Wilhelm), with characteristic species including black and white oak, wintergreen, red Trillium, shadbush, eastern dogwood, blueberry, Pennsylvania sedge, box huckleberry, round-leaved Hepatica, and other species.

Partners:

- ▶ Lake Michigan Coastal Program (funding partner)
- ▶ Dune Acres Civic Improvement Association (funding partner)
- ▶ Res, Inc. (restoration partner)