



INDIANA DUNES
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TRAIL

NEW TRAIL UNDERWAY AT THE INDIANA DUNES VISITOR CENTER

FOUR PARTNERS

- Indiana Dunes Tourism
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
 - National Park Service
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

FIVE THEMES

- Water
- Sustainability / Adaptation
 - Seasons and Cycles
 - Connection
- Living things that teach us

ONE MISSION

We are working in partnership to bring Indigenous voices to the forefront and to continue the tradition of caring for this land. Join us.



Who are we?

A **unique partnership** is working to envision and create a new Indiana Dunes Indigenous Cultural Trail.

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Indiana Dunes Tourism, and the Indiana Dunes National Park are working in a collaboration to create a new trail in Porter County.



What will people learn about on the trail?

1. Water
2. Sustainability & Adaptation
3. Seasons and Cycles
4. Connection
5. Living things that teach us - plants and animals

Stories in the indigenous voice will help locals and visitors relate to Potawatomi and Miami Tribes and their connection to the Indiana Dunes.



Themed signs along the trail will tell the stories the Indiana Dunes and the Indigenous Tribes who call it home.

Indiana Dunes National Park



Take Notice!

NATURE AT WORK

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. We hope you notice the unique landscaping here. We are using nature to clean **water** before it leaves this site.

How does our landscaping protect our water quality?

The area of land around us can be thought of as a large funnel that carries rainwater to nearby rivers, **streams**, and lakes. This funnel is called a watershed. The Visitor Center is located within the Dunes Creek watershed. When it **rains**, the rainwater runs off the Visitor Center's roof, lawn, and parking lot, carrying harmful pollutants through Dunes Creek into **Lake Michigan**. The Visitor Center landscaping includes vegetated swales, deeply rooted native plants, a stream within a ditch, and a **rain** garden. The landscaping was carefully designed to slow and clean the stormwater before it reaches Dunes Creek and ultimately **Lake Michigan**.

Clean water is up to each of us! Wondering what you can do?

- Volunteer for a local beach, river, or wetland cleanup.
- Become a clean **water** advocate and share what you've learned.
- Choose phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer and nontoxic household cleaning products.
- Create a **rain** garden in your backyard to capture and treat stormwater.
- Don't pour hazardous wastes down the drain or into storm sewers.

INDIGENOUS TRANSLATIONS

Lake Michigan

- Miami: Kihcikami
- Potawatomi: Mshigmé

Rain

- Miami: Peetjlaanki
- Potawatomi: Gm'éya

Stream

- Miami: Meehcaakamiinsi
- Potawatomi: Zibé

Water

- Miami: Nipi
- Potawatomi: Mbish



Sandhill Crane

- Miami: Cecaahkwa
- Potawatomi: Thethak

Did You Know?

Did you know there are over 40 watersheds within Porter County, and half of those drain into **Lake Michigan** where many of us swim, boat, fish, and get our drinking **water**?

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The Indiana Dunes Indigenous Cultural Trail was developed in partnership with Indiana Dunes Tourism, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Pigeon Band of Potawatomi Tribe, the National Park Service, and the Field Museum.

Why at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center?

- It is the gateway to Indiana Dunes National and State Parks
- It serves over 100,000 visitors and residents each year
- The landscaping was created using environmental best practices to clean water runoff and attract wildlife with native plants
- Sits on just under 5 acres and is adjacent to 15 acres of National Park



Sights Along the Trail:

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center: grounds with a restored native landscape and Dunes Creek.

National Park Prairie: Pioneer plant species, wetland animals, beneficial mound ants, crayfish, and a variety of other plants & animals.

National Park Wooded Area: Mature trees, fungi, woodland plants, animals, and wildflowers.



Milestones achieved:

- ✓ The trail concept, name, and logo
- ✓ New signage plan and first set of signs installed
- ✓ Engineering plans
- ✓ Welcome shelter design
- ✓ Tree identification trail
- ✓ Botanical site surveys to identify plant species already living on the land
- ✓ Land acknowledgement

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PHOTORELIEF

The Path Forward:

Construct:

- Additional interpretive signs
- Boardwalk over Dunes Creek
- Firepit/interpretation area
- Connection/gateway to DK trail

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The Future:

- Indigenous art
- Programming
- Welcome Shelter

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Be a part of our shared vision



Find out how to become a part of this project at www.pccf.gives/ict

**Migwëtth
Neewe
Thank you**



The Indiana Dunes Indigenous Cultural Trail Engineering Plan was made possible by a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program.