



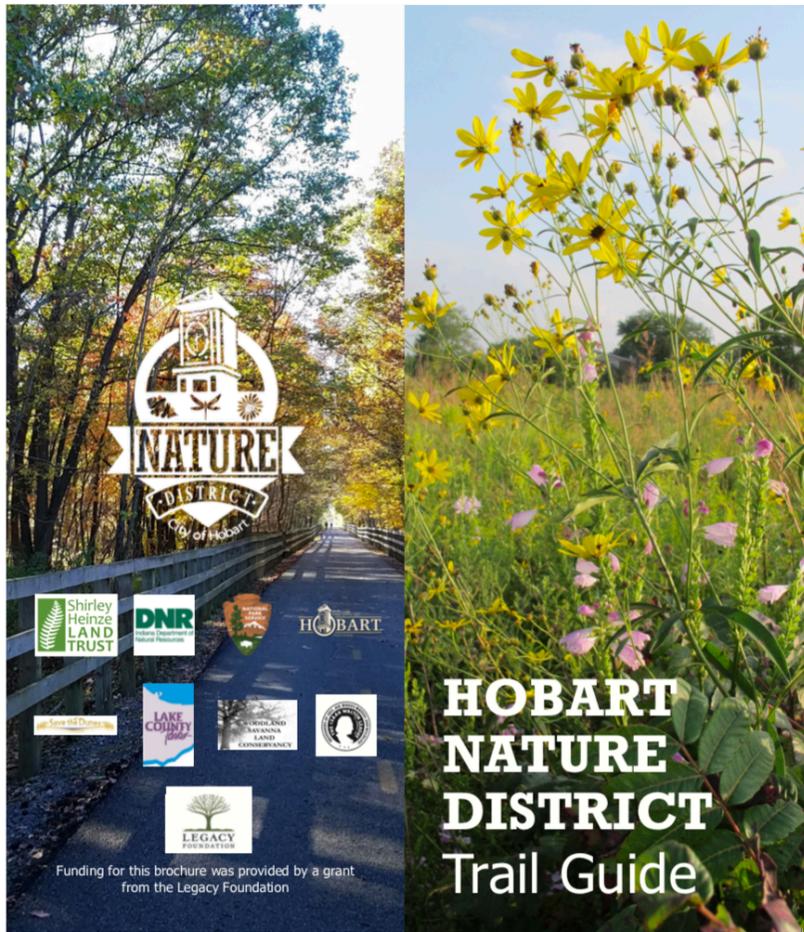
The **Hobart Nature District** in Northwest Indiana encompasses over 1,000 acres of scenic parks, wetlands & floodplains, winding rivers, peaceful lakes, open prairies, oak savannas, old-growth forests, and undulating ravines. Each of these unique habitats provides sanctuary to native wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. The area offers great opportunities for year-round birding.

Many local partners are working together to protect, restore, and promote the natural areas found here. These partners also work together to secure resources for restoration projects and recreation improvements.

You can visit the Hobart Nature District to enjoy a variety of natural habitats and time spent in nature. Parks and nature preserves provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking and wildlife viewing. The Oak Savannah bike trail connects the district to downtown Hobart, where you can find local shops and restaurants to explore before or after your outdoor adventure.



*Bur Oak*



### Natural Area Features and Access

- Brinson & Bock/Higgins** (25 acres) Bur oak savanna restoration. No trails. Access from Oak Savanna Trail
- Bur Oak Woods** (84 acres) Bur oak savanna. 2 mi trail. Parking lot on Liverpool Rd
- Cressmoor Prairie** (41 acres) Tallgrass prairie. 0.75 mi trail. Parking lot on N Lake Park Rd
- Eleven Acre Prairie** (11 acres) Remnant prairie. No parking lot or trails
- Gordon & Faith Greiner** (73 acres) Wetlands, wet prairie and woodlands. 0.08 mi trail. Parking lot on Liverpool Rd
- Hidden Prairie & Ivory Wetlands** (61 acres - Restricted - access by special permission only) Wet prairie, swamp, marsh, and open water
- Hobart Prairie Grove** (300 acres) 1.1-mi trail. Forested ravines, overlook of Lake George. Park at 5250 South Liverpool Rd
- Levan Wetland** (17 acres) Sandy woods and fen-like wetlands. No parking lot or trails
- McCloskey's Burr Oak Savanna** (55 acres) 1-mi trail. Bur oak savanna and tallgrass prairie. Parking lot on north side of 49th Ave, east of solar farm
- Oak Savannah Trail** (8+ miles) E. Trailhead: 4 North Hobart Rd, Hobart. W Trailhead: 301 South Colfax St, Griffith
- Peddicord** (91 acres - Open Summer 2018) 1 mi trail. Undulating ravines and overlook of Lake George. Parking lot on west side of Arizona St
- Robinson Lake Park** (30 acres) 17-acre lake open to the public for fishing and paddling, picnic shelters and restrooms. Parking lot 5250 Liverpool Rd
- Spring Lake** (50 acres) 21-acre man-made lake, 6-acre black soil prairie. Access restricted to Izaak Walton League members and public events. 4700 W 49th Ave

### Hobart Natural Areas - Precious Remnants of a Vast Wilderness

Northwest Indiana has a rich ecological heritage. The natural places here are a significant piece of that history. They protect critical habitat for wildlife, help keep our water and air clean, and provide opportunities for recreation. There are three iconic habitat types found in the Hobart Nature District; tallgrass prairie, bur oak savanna, and wetlands.

Bur oak savannas once covered thousands of acres in northwestern Indiana. McCloskey's Burr Oak Savanna, Bur Oak Woods, and Hobart Prairie Grove protect some of the only remaining examples of this habitat. Many of the majestic bur oak trees found in the area are several hundred years old.



*Bur Oak Woods*



*Cressmoor Prairie*

The rich and fertile black soil of tallgrass prairies was highly desirable for agriculture, so they were largely plowed under by settlers. Cressmoor Prairie is one of the largest, and finest protected examples of black-soil prairie in Indiana. The District features many other preserved prairies to explore, including areas such as Brinson and Bock/Higgins Nature Preserves, which have been carefully restored by dedicated members of the community.

Lakes, rivers, streams and marshes provide a rich source of food and habitat for wildlife. Here in Northwest Indiana, the vast majority of wetlands have been drained for agriculture and development. Levan Wetland and the neighboring Gordon and Faith Greiner Nature Preserve feature unique, high-quality examples of wetlands that will be protected in perpetuity.



*Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve*

### General Visitation Guidelines:

Public use policies vary across property managers, but these general policies apply to use of the natural areas featured in this guide:

- Open to the public for passive recreation i.e., hiking, birding, nature study
- No motorized vehicles
- Bicycles allowed only on paved roadways, not hiking trails
- Follow leave-no-trace guidelines; do not remove any plants, animals, minerals, fossils, or other natural objects, pack out any waste, take only pictures, leave only footprints
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than six feet
- Stay on designated trails to minimize impact to surrounding habitat

### For More Information:

- Shirley Heinze Land Trust:**  
heinzetrust.org (219)-242-8558
- Indiana Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore:**  
www.nps.gov/indu
- DNR Division of Nature Preserves:**  
in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve
- Izaak Walton League - Spring Lake:**  
iwl.org
- Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy:** woodlandsavanna.org
- City of Hobart:** cityofhobart.org
- Save the Dunes:** savedunes.org
- Lake Co. Parks:** lakecountyparks.com

**HOBART NATURE DISTRICT**

District Boundary 

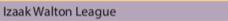
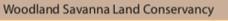
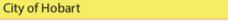
Gateway 

Parking 

Paved Trail 

Unpaved Trail 

Natural Area Owners:

-  Shirley Heinze Land Trust
-  National Park Service
-  Indiana Dept of Natural Resources
-  Izaak Walton League
-  Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy
-  City of Hobart
-  Save the Dunes
-  Lake County Parks

