Shirley Heinze
Land Trust

2010 Midwest Land Conservation Conference
Strategic Conservation Planning
April 16, 2010
Moraine Forest Conservation Planning

Partners
Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Save the Dunes
LaPorte County Conservation Trust
Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy

Funders
Land Trust Alliance
Gaylord Dorothy & Donnelley Foundation
Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Parcels
- 2009 (May) LaPorte County Parcels (Laporte Co.)
- 2009 (May) Porter County Parcels (Porter Co.)
- 2009 (May) Managed Lands (IDNR)
- 2009 (October) Lake County Parcels (Lake County Surveyor)

Land Cover
- 2005 Forest Outside Managed Lands (Openlands)

Aerial Photography
- 2005 Indiana orthophotography (IN Geographic Information Council)
- Post 2005 imagery (Microsoft Virtual Earth)

Misc
- Priority conservation sites (IDNR)
- Classified Forest and Wildlands tracts (IDNR)
- Forest Legacy Areas (IDNR)
- 2007 National Wetland Inventory Update (Ducks Unlimited)
- Northwest Indiana Blueways Opportunities (Openlands)
Prioritization was based on the following scoring matrix and classified with the Jenks/Natural Breaks algorithm using ArcGIS Desktop 9.3.1 software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parcels greater than 25 acres in size</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels adjacent to existing managed conservation lands</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels overlapping forested areas buffered inwardly 100, 200, &amp; 300 meters</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels overlapping with Indiana DNR priority conservation sites</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels participating in Classified Forest &amp; Wildlands or Forest Legacy programs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels with forest overlapping wetlands</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels with forest overlapping 100 meter buffer of designated blueway opportunities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A second prioritization approach was based on a basic visual assessment process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canopy Quality</td>
<td>plus, zero, minus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Factor</td>
<td>plus, zero, minus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understory Quality (Invasive Species vs. Natives)</td>
<td>plus, zero, minus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Valparaiso Moraine

Chicago Wilderness
Green Infrastructure Vision

Preliminary project boundary

Final project boundary

Northwestern Moraine Natural Region

(Hooye et al., 1989)