



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore News Release

**Release Date:** July 10, 2017

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### **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and NIPSCO look ahead to form an alliance in Stewardship Efforts**

*Building a Framework for Future Resource Stewardship Partners*

As Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore moves forward in planning for another century of stewardship, it will do so with a new partner. NIPSCO and the Park have teamed up as major partners in a new Good Fellow Club Youth Camp Landscape Restoration Project.

The site of a former summer outdoor recreation camp operated by U.S. Steel Gary Works' Good Fellow Club, Good Fellow Club Youth Camp was purchased in 1977 by The National Park Service. The property's association with regional industrial history has placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. Bounded on the North and West by more than 100 acres of NIPSCO property, the 63 acres were not widely used until 1998, when National Park Service education partner, Dunes Learning Center was established.

A visit to Dunes Learning Center represents, for many, their first National Park experience and an introduction to the Indiana Dunes. Immersed in nature, students learn about ecology, stewardship, and the environment. More than 14,000 individuals participated in a Dunes Learning Center program in 2016, adding to a total of more than 100,000 since 1998.

Seeking to better serve these young visitors and restore the historic natural landscape, the park has developed a Restoration Plan and reached out to NIPSCO through the Wildlife Habitat Council—an organization that specializes in building conservation collaborations—to craft a mutually sustainable plan to address both sites. Once completed, the Good Fellow Club Youth Camp Landscape Restoration Project will increase the size of Dunes Learning Center's outdoor classroom, as well as its ecological and educational value. In addition to a generous \$50,000 donation on behalf of their parent company's philanthropic NiSource Foundation, NIPSCO will provide in-kind activities and coordination to assist in the restoration.

The National Lakeshore and NIPSCO believe that by partnering through this resource stewardship project, they will continue to build a long-term relationship. The park looks forward

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to utilizing this framework with additional resource stewardship partners to help create generations of conservation stewards in the region.

***Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore** is one of the 417 units of the National Park Service, ranging from Yellowstone to the Statue of Liberty. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore includes 15 miles of the southern shoreline of Lake Michigan and 15,000 acres of beach, woods, marshes and prairie in the northwest corner of Indiana. More than 2 million visitors come to this national park each year. More information can be found at [NPS.gov/INDU](https://www.nps.gov/INDU).*

***About NIPSCO:** Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), with headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana, has proudly served the energy needs of northern Indiana for more than 100 years. As Indiana's largest natural gas distribution company and the second-largest electricity distribution company, NIPSCO serves approximately 810,000 natural gas and 460,000 electricity customers across 32 counties. NIPSCO is part of NiSource's (NYSE: NI) seven regulated utility companies. NiSource is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 4 million natural gas and electricity customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about NIPSCO and NiSource is available at [NIPSCO.com](https://www.nipSCO.com) and [www.nisource.com](https://www.nisource.com).*

***About Dunes Learning Center:** One of 17 National Park Service non-profit education partners, Dunes Learning Center provides year-round, standards-based, environmental education for learners of all ages—inspiring curiosity, scientific literacy, environmental stewardship and civic engagement. Located within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Center's modern residential campus occupies 63 acres of rolling woodland at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, less than an hour from Chicago. To learn more, visit [DunesLearningCenter.org](https://DunesLearningCenter.org) or follow Dunes Learning Center on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.*