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**MASTER PLAN FOR
McCLOSKEY'S BURR OAK SAVANNA NATURE PRESERVE**
SANDY W. GANTER
RECORDER
STANLEY W. BIRCH
AUDITOR LAKE COUNTY

The following is hereby adopted as the Master Plan for Burr Oak Savanna Nature Preserve being dedicated as a nature preserve:

1. This Master Plan applies to a nature preserve containing a burr oak savanna, remnant prairie and at least one rare species. It is owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and is under the administration of the Division of Nature Preserves. It is located in Hobart Township in Lake County, Indiana, a more detailed description being contained in the "Articles of Dedication" for Burr Oak Savanna Nature Preserve of which this Master Plan is a part and to which it is attached.

The management, custody and use of the Nature Preserve shall be the responsibility of the Division of Nature Preserves (the Division) pursuant to the Nature Preserves Act, the Articles of Dedication of the Nature Preserve, and this Master Plan.

The Nature Preserve may be used for all purposes stated in the Nature Preserves Act, but subject to the provisions of this Master Plan. Action required or permitted by this Master Plan may be taken only by the Division, or by parties designated in writing by the Division for particular actions.

All provisions of this Master Plan shall be interpreted in light of the basic intention of this Master Plan that the Nature Preserve shall be managed to maintain and/or restore its natural ecological conditions and be dedicated for the purposes of the Nature Preserves Act and in furtherance of the public policy of the State of Indiana declared by this Act.

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In the case of this Nature Preserve, the main purpose of the dedication is to preserve and restore the savanna and prairie communities and to protect the endangered species.

2. The following developments, structures and facilities may be permitted within the Nature Preserve:

- a. Boundary markers and boundary fences may be placed as needed around the perimeter. Such developments should be installed with the least possible disturbance to the soil, plants and animals.
- b. A parking lot of not more than 5000 square feet may be established within the Nature Preserve. The site for this lot must be located in a disturbed or formerly disturbed area and may only be installed after a survey has been conducted to insure that no unique or significant features will be impacted.
- c. Foot trails, foot bridges, boardwalks, trail markers, interpretive signs, observation sites and ditch or stream crossings may be constructed and maintained after sufficient study is completed to help determine proper placement. Existing trails and roads may be maintained at the discretion of the Division.
- d. Fire breaks to insure safety during prescribed burning may be established at locations approved by the Division.
- e. Such other developments, construction or improvements that are 1) approved by the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, or his designee and 2) are not inconsistent with the intent of this document may be established and maintained.

3. Management activities within the Nature Preserve shall be governed by the following rules:
- a. Water levels shall not be altered intentionally except when essential for the restoration or maintenance of natural conditions or in regard to any existing regulated drains.
 - b. Erosion and soil deposition may be controlled.
 - c. No action shall be taken to alter natural growth or natural features in the Nature Preserve for the purpose of enhancing the beauty, neatness and amenities of the Nature Preserve or any part thereof.
 - d. There shall be no cutting of grass, brush or other vegetation, thinning of trees, removal of dead wood, opening of scenic vistas or planting, except as allowed elsewhere in this Master Plan.
 - e. There shall be no removal or use of any natural material, product or object from the Nature Preserve and there shall be no intentional introduction of any material, product or object into the Preserve except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan.
 - f. Except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan, all fires shall be brought under control as quickly as possible. After a fire, there shall be no clean-up, fire hazard reduction or replanting except for safety purposes.
 - g. Trees or branches that constitute a safety hazard to persons on established trails or in any other authorized use areas may be felled but shall be left to decompose naturally.
 - h. Species of plants and animals which are considered noxious by State Law, and exotic and aggressive native species which are detrimental to the quality of the Nature Preserve, may be controlled and removed. In the case of plants, the control and

removal shall be by manual methods (chain saws, brush cutters and hand tools) and/or prescribed burning. Herbicides and biological agents proven to be effective and safe in natural areas management may be used in conjunction with such manual methods. Except in situations where heavy infestations make this approach impractical, herbicides should only be used if directly applied to cut stumps or to the species to be eradicated. In the case of animals, the control and removal shall be by the most current, acceptable methods, and in accordance with State wildlife regulations.

- i. Control of biotic succession by artificial means may be undertaken only if 1) preservation of a particular species is determined by the Division to be consistent with the purpose of the Nature Preserve and/or 2) such control is necessary for the maintenance or restoration of the natural communities for which the Nature Preserve was dedicated. Acceptable control measures are the same as those allowed in sections 3h, 3j.
- j. Controlled burning shall be permitted only as a properly used tool to maintain and/or restore natural conditions on this Nature Preserve. The Preserve or a portion of the Preserve may be burned annually for natural community management, as determined by the Division. The burning shall be done in accordance with the most current information available on fire management, and shall be done only using the methods and materials specified in a Burning Plan prepared by the Division.
- k. Except as permitted elsewhere in this Master Plan, native plants and animals may only be introduced, re-introduced or removed from the Nature Preserve under the conditions listed below. All such actions shall require the written approval of the

Director of the Division of Nature Preserves. The species to be introduced must constitute a normal component of a natural community contained within the Nature Preserve and its introduction must 1) have a positive effect on the natural quality and integrity of the Nature Preserve and/or 2) correct a negative effect caused by its absence. In order to minimize the possibility of introducing non-native ecotypes into the area, the source of the organisms to be introduced should, if possible, be from within the Northwestern Morainal Natural Region, Chicago Lake Plain Section as defined by Homoya, et al. 1985. The Natural Regions of Indiana. Proc. Indiana Academy of Science. 94: 245-268.

Species of plants or animals which 1) are documented, either by specimens or reliable reports, to have occurred there in the past, or 2) presently occur but are nearly extirpated from the property may be re-introduced into the proper habitat of the Nature Preserve.

In certain cases, the introduction of other species, which are not documented from the Nature Preserve, may be considered on a case by case basis by the Division. Unless adequate justification can be provided to support the introduction of more common species, only those plants and animals may be introduced that 1) are listed as endangered or threatened on a national level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2) are currently being considered for such a listing or 3) represent a population of a species, which is listed as rare, threatened or endangered in Indiana according to the most current listing by the Department of Natural Resources.

Species of plants or animals may be introduced into disturbed areas of the Preserve for the purpose of re-establishing a native natural community or improving a degraded natural community which exists at the time of the Dedication of this Preserve. Only species which would normally occur in this type of natural community may be introduced.

Individual specimens of certain species may be removed from the Nature Preserve for the purpose of re-establishment in a similar community type in another Nature Preserve or in a high quality natural community provided that sufficient individuals of the species are present so that this removal does not endanger the population. Other potential sources should always be explored before allowing a species to be removed from the Preserve. In the case of plants, the removal of seeds for planting elsewhere shall take precedence over the removal of entire plants.

1. Appropriate actions may be taken to correct existing conditions within the Nature Preserve which 1) result from direct or indirect human activities and 2) adversely affect the natural features for which the Nature Preserve was dedicated. Such actions should only be undertaken if reasonable assurances exist that said actions will not have unforeseen detrimental effects on the natural communities and species of plants and animals contained within the Nature Preserve.
4. Human use of the Nature Preserve shall be governed by the following regulations:
 - a. Ingress and egress shall be allowed only at such locations and under such conditions as are established from time to time by the Division.

- b. The primary visitor activities in the Preserve shall be walking, observing and nature study. These activities shall be permitted only to the extent that the Preserve can tolerate them without substantial deterioration. Visitors without permits for research or collecting activities shall generally be permitted only on trails and may otherwise be restricted in movement when deemed advisable.
- c. Scientific and educational activities may be permitted only to the extent that the Preserve can tolerate them without substantial deterioration. Collecting, Research and Educational Permits may be issued only for scientific or educational purposes by the Division. **Document is NOT OFFICIAL! This Document is the property of the Lake County Recorder!**
- d. No structure, easement, right-of-way or other intrusion, development, impairment, disturbance or use which is not permitted by this Master Plan shall be established or be allowed to continue, excepting only the continuance of a use or uses of easements which use existed on the date of this dedication.
- e. Except to the extent permitted in this Master Plan, the following activities are prohibited, but their inclusion herein shall not restrict the right of the Division to prohibit other activities it considers inconsistent with this Master Plan or the purposes of the Preserve: timbering, grazing by domestic animals, farming, the gathering of firewood or other plant products, mining and quarrying, drilling for oil or gas, the harvesting of fruits, nuts, mushrooms, fur bearers or other animals, the dumping, burying or spreading of garbage, trash or other waste materials, picnicking, camping, lighting of fires, participating in games or sports, the use of vehicles (except for emergency and service uses), horseback riding, hunting, trapping, the removal,

disturbance, molestation or defacement of minerals, plants, animals or natural features
and the gathering of specimens except by permit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana has
adopted this Master Plan as of the 19th day of December, 1996.

STATE OF INDIANA
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

ATTEST:



Patrick R. Ralston, Secretary



Michael J. Kiley, Chairman

