Hoosier Heritage Area
THE HOOSIER HERITAGE AREA:

A REGIONAL IDENTITY PRESERVATION INITIATIVE IN EAST CENTRAL INDIANA

A COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT
LA 404

by

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Project Information

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The different ways in which peoples of the world relate to their environment has created innumerable unique regional identities. These diverse regional identities are valuable, as they create pride and encourage greater involvement in the community. In the United States, regional identity is being threatened by homogenization. Standardized development projects and the event of local economies being replaced by big businesses are causes of this homogenization. Fortunately, throughout the world, Regional Identity Preservation Initiatives (RIPIs) have been undertaken. RIPIs are programs geared to safeguard a region's heritage from homogenization. By using the knowledge gained from these case studies, such as the Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey, and the Natural Regional Park System in France, a regional identity preservation initiative will be designed for east central Indiana. The Midwest in general is greatly threatened by homogenization, and a RIPI in east central Indiana will increase protection of this region's unique natural and cultural identity.
Chapter 1
Project Introduction

Background...

The United States is composed of unique regions which, inherently, have their own identity. These various regions of the United States have innumerable distinct differences, which, throughout history, have been sometimes heralded as essential, and sometimes overlooked. Native ecosystems defined a way of life for the land's first inhabitants, the Native Americans, people whose diversity of culture, language, and customs developed as a result of a diverse environment. As Europeans settled the land, the Native Americans often were forced to move, made to adapt their lifestyle, or merely killed. Grave as this was, a new cultural landscape emerged, sometimes in wanton disregard for Native American life and native ecosystems, sometimes still working closely with the land.

The different ways in which native peoples, and later the settlers, related to the environment created unique regional identities for all areas of the United States. This is why a Colorado mountain town is different from a California coastal community, which is different from a Maine lobster-fishing village, which is different from a Midwestern farm landscape. Each one has its own customs, dialects, points of view, and design principles. Presently, there is a resurgence of the idea of Regionalism, an idea which has surfaced before but has been stifled by the idea of America First. Throughout history, there has been a struggle between those that advocate homogeneity for the sake of national unity, and those that place great importance upon our local identities and inherent diversity. Currently, this struggle is more heated than ever, as designers and community advocates appeal to regional consciousness and history, while big business strives for efficiency and standardization.

Unfortunately, this valuable regional identity has been giving way to homogenization. Areas rich in natural heritage are experiencing development with little or no relation to that heritage, and local economies rely more on outside big business interests than on local products and entrepreneurship. As a result, regional pride and awareness is decreasing, and regions are in danger of losing their distinct identity. No where is this problem more apparent than in the Midwest, where suburbanization and development is increasing rapidly, where large-scale businesses and malls are easy to build, and where few regionalist programs have been proposed.

There have been, however, initiatives designed elsewhere to preserve the unique natural and cultural heritage of various regions throughout the world. The locations and scopes of these initiatives are as diverse as the regions themselves, ranging from the seven state Mississippi Delta Initiative to small inner city neighborhood rehabilitations, and from the recreationally focused Adirondack Park to the preservation of game and tribal lands in South Africa. Strategies employed in these initiatives can be examined and stored to be used as a base of information for future Regional Identity Preservation Initiatives (RIPIs). The many tools utilized by organizations and park services throughout the world can teach the landscape architect how to create new initiatives wherever they are necessary.
Goals...
In the face of homogenization, more initiatives are necessary throughout the United States in order that regions may preserve their unique natural and cultural heritage. The regions of the Midwest, in particular, are greatly threatened. Therefore, this comprehensive project proposes to increase protection of the regional identity of east central Indiana.

This goal is accomplished through several principal objectives.
--- understanding the regional character of east central Indiana
--- understanding the tools for regional identity preservation, which are found in various case studies
--- undertaking an accurate inventory of the selected project site
--- applying appropriate design tools to the selected project site.

Put simply, this comprehensive project strives to develop a new case study, or Regional Identity Preservation Initiative (RIPI), based on knowledge gained from past case studies, and applied to a region in need of regional preservation.

Assumptions...
The greatest assumption in undertaking such a project is that distinct regional identities are in fact better than a national or international view. It is assumed that the world's future would be better with the presence of cultural and environmental differences than if it were homogenous in every aspect of life and land.

It is also assumed that east central Indiana is at least partially aware of its regional identity and desires a preservation initiative. It is important that Regional Identity Preservation Initiatives (RIPIs) originate within the region, and, because the selection of the project site is based on available resources and proximity, it is assumed that the site's residents have an interest in the preservation of their regional identity.

In the undertaking of such a Regional Identity Preservation Initiative (RIPI), professionals from many areas of expertise work together to accomplish their goals. This has been true of many of the recent RIPIs seen throughout the world. As a landscape architect would form only part of such a team, it is important to assume for this project that such a team exists. Important elements of this RIPI, such as zoning, marketing, festival planning, and funding would normally be undertaken by other professionals, and therefore are not examined by the landscape architect in this project.

In addition, several other assumptions are made.
--- Public agencies, private landowners, and entrepreneurs are cooperative
--- Available funds are sufficient to execute the strategies proposed for the selected site
--- Topographical maps and other data sources are accurate

Limitations...
The principal limitation in executing such a project is the potential geographical size of the project site. In a true RIPI, the entire region would be considered and selected as the project site. East Central Indiana is too large a site to consider within the time constraints, so a representative project site has been chosen as a sample of the region.
Chapter 2
Design Considerations
Principles...

The overriding principle in designing an RIPI is that it must relate to the actual identity of the region. This can create a difficult dilemma, as some regions and some cultures have built their way of life with complete disregard for the environment. Therefore, a compromise must be made between the various human aspects of the region, both past and present, and the environmental aspects of the region. This compromise is the foundation of a good RIPI. It must be remembered that, in some way, the land created the culture, whether it offered difficult mountainous terrain which drastically limited settlement, or whether it simply offered rich soil and flat topography. Homogenization is precisely the result of overwhelming concessions to the human aspect of regional identity. Under this philosophy, the land is seen as something to simply build on. Therefore, in battling against homogenization, the driving design principle must be a balance between the cultural and the environmental heritage particular to the region. Sometimes this balance exists, and a RIPI becomes a means of preserving and displaying that balance. Often the balance is skewed in the favor of the human aspect, and in this case, it is important to design environmentally beneficial initiatives without compromising regional identity.

Clients...

The primary client is the town, county, or community organization that desires to preserve its regional identity. This client initiates the RIPI and sees it through to the end with funding, volunteer hours, public input, and regulatory and legislative action. Often, the client exists as a coalition of local governments or as an ad hoc committee appointed by such a coalition. Usually, the client has some type of governmental jurisdiction, and, therefore, may move slowly. Hopefully, this client accurately speaks for all inhabitants of the proposed RIPI, including plants and animals.

Users...

There are two types of users of this RIPI. The most important users are those that inhabit the area. These users may be reluctant to such an initiative taking place in their back yard. It is therefore important to include them in the design process in some fashion, in order that their concerns may be heard and considered. Even though a RIPI strives to affect a way of life by preserving the current way of life, any designation of this type is likely to worry some clients. Therefore, a designer must be present in the community in order to understand the clients and execute an effective RIPI for them.

Visitors to the area must have access to services which make their stays pleasant. Food, lodging, gas, entertainment, and recreational opportunities are important, as they encourage heritage tourism, and thereby benefit the local populace. It is important that these users are comfortable as they explore this area of rich environmental and cultural heritage. As individual users may vary drastically in their desires and needs, a variety of experiences should be provided to accommodate all visitors.
Chapter 3
Regionalism, Regions, and Regional Identity Preservation

History of Regionalism...
In the 1960s, government and business began to acknowledge the presence of distinct regions within the United States. This awareness of regions stimulated regional advocacy groups which occasionally put pressure on politicians and the business world in order to gain more recognition or autonomy for their region. The basis for regional definition was geography. It was felt that the physical environment was the primary determinant of a region and its identity, and that understanding one region did not help in the understanding of another region. In the 1980s, regionalists began to look at social, economic, religious, and other factors to determine the boundaries of regions. Geographical or not, regionalism has existed throughout American history, beginning with the secession of the South in 1861 and continuing with such programs as Appalachian rehabilitation in the 1960s and the Frostbelt promotion of the late 1970s (Brashaw 3-8). A socio-economic view of regions, though often considered, is opposed by another idea concerned with the concept of regions: bioregionalism. This concept is described as “human community finding its particular place within the... interdependence of life in an integrated ecosystem” (Andrus et al ix). It is suggested that a bioregionalist community embrace not only the human inhabitants of the area, but also all other components of the environment, both living and nonliving. Bioregionalism states that regional identity should stem directly from the natural environment, and only from the natural environment (Andrus et al 58).
**Definition of Regions...**

Socio-economic and bioregionalist concepts have led to the definition of American regions by researchers—or rather the attempt to define American regions. Gastil suggests methods such as economy, physiography, history, culture, dialect, religion, and statistical analysis to define regions (25). In so doing, he displays at least 10 maps by various authors which draw regional boundaries in a great variety of places. In his book, Gastil shows central Indiana appearing in any of seven possible regions (18, 19, 29-33, 49). While et al recognizes that boundaries are not definite, but instead are only guidelines for understanding cultural diversity, yet he goes on to place central Indiana into any of five possible regions (91-93).

Unfortunately, this practice of regional boundary definition often becomes a semantic game, as Indiana could be placed in the Central Feed Grains and Livestock region (White 91) or the Lake Plains region (Gastil 18), neither perhaps accurately describing the true character of the place. Regional definition is based on such varied criteria that any researcher may place central Indiana in a different region than any other. Most of this type of regional delineation is moot, because **good RIPIs need not define the boundaries of a larger region, they need only originate from a local populace and understand the immediate geographical area.** Therefore, a definite delineation of the boundaries of a region containing East Central Indiana is not of major importance, and attention is concentrated on the understanding of the project site itself, and of the tools of regional identity preservation.

**Regional Identity Preservation...**

Public agencies are at the forefront of regional identity preservation. The National Park Service, through its Cultural Resources Divisions, provides consulting information, national register nomination assistance, and site inventory programs to states, counties, towns, or communities which desire to protect their unique resources. Many states are becoming concerned with the homogenization of their natural and cultural resources, and have hired professionals who specialize in regional identity preservation. In some form, most public agencies already have in place entire departments devoted to the protection of the unique resources of their area of jurisdiction. Conservation Departments, Environmental Protection Departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and even some Parks Departments generally are concerned about the protection or conservation of natural resources, while Historical Societies and Historic Preservation Offices, as well as the organizing committees of local festivals, are devoted to the recognition and protection of cultural resources. The principal difference between the acts of these types of agencies and the execution of Regional Identity Preservation Initiatives (RIPIs), is that the latter takes into account BOTH natural AND cultural resources, and sees these as parts of an inseparable whole. Many public agencies are beginning to recognize the holistic nature of regional identity preservation, and have been forming coalitions of experts and volunteers in order to accurately protect ALL the resources of a region.

Usually, a RAPI begins with a community which is concerned about its heritage, its natural resources, or impending development. Such a community may appeal to a greater jurisdiction, such as a state or national agency, as well as form their own local committees. After this recognition of regional identity and the acknowledgment that it is threatened, a community may proceed in many ways. The legislative, administrative, and design options open to such a community are plentiful, and constitute the Tools of Regional Identity Preservation, which are outlined in more in Chapter 4.
General Case Studies...

Les Parcs Naturels Regionaux (Natural Regional Parks) is a system of parks in France, devoted to the preservation of environmental and cultural heritage, which currently boasts 32 units and has 16 more slated to open in the next four years. A park begins with a local populace, which then applies to the federal government. A confederation of Natural Regional Parks helps the project initiators to develop a focus for their park, and then to design trails, brochures, park offices, and other amenities. Some parks have an historical focus, while others may focus on a unique natural environment, local product, or indigenous culture. Amenities often include marked trails, interpretive walks, educational programs, museums, and auto tour routes. (Coutin)

The Mississippi Delta Initiative is a large scale comprehensive study of ecosystems, historical elements, and local culture which is being undertaken by the National Park Service along the lower Mississippi River. Recently, Congress authorized this study of the natural and cultural environment, with special focus to be placed on watershed protection and the exploration and exhibition of slave culture, Creole enclaves, and southern music. Recently, the initiative saw the first stages of the creation of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Historic Viewshed. This area in northern Louisiana is home to antebellum plantations, portions of the Underground Railroad, and ancient stands of southern hardwoods. This first designation is one of many that will follow under the leadership of this initiative. (Department of the Interior)

The South African National Park System is a cooperation between government and indigenous tribes to create a self-sufficient system which allows for use by both native peoples and visitors. South Africa uses tourism to appeal to national and international visitors, allowing adjacent tribes to operate markets or act as guides in the parks. Income from heavily visited parks supports those that are more remote, and concessions are given to indigenous tribes, such as grazing rights, water rights, and admission reductions.
The Adirondack Park, in upstate New York is a decision to create one immense park for all uses, wilderness, residential, recreational, etc., in lieu of many smaller state parks. With a long history of regionalism, the Adirondacks were seen as an invaluable resource by the state of New York and preserved in their entirety. (Berger, Collins, Goldstein)

The New Jersey Pinelands Project is a multidisciplinary effort to preserve environmental heritage in the face of homogenizing development. Begun as a reaction to the proposal of a jetport in southern New Jersey, the Pinelands project went through many phases before receiving the unique designation of National Reserve. At the initial stages, the initiative was purely local, and only moved to the state and federal levels later in the project, as more funding and publicity were needed. Currently, the initiative exists as a means of protecting fragile ecosystems, such as
Chapter 4
The Tools of Regional Identity Preservation

pine barrens and dunes, promoting berry farming, and preserving historical small towns in the face of the encroaching suburban sprawl of Newark, Atlantic City, and Philadelphia. (Graham, Liroff, Weston)

Definition...
When undertaking any project from auto repair to cabinet making to patio installation, certain specialized tools are necessary. Without these tools, the job would be all but impossible to execute. Each tool is designed for a specific purpose, but all have a particular overriding goal. For instance, a tape measure, a hammer, and a post hole digger have very different purposes, but they all are a part of the deck-making process. This is also the case with Regional Identity Preservation Initiatives (RIPIs). Different tools may have very different purposes, but all are used to create an RIPI. For instance, a National Park and an Agricultural Conservation Zone are two totally different tools designed for two totally different purposes, but each may seek to preserve some sort of regional identity. Even though the National Park focuses on the safeguarding of valuable natural ecosystems and an Agricultural Conservation Zone strives to protect economic interests, both, in some way, protect a region’s identity, and both preserve the integrity of the existing landscape, whether it be totally natural or whether it be fully utilized by humans. Therefore, these tools may be of equal importance in an RIPI, as long as they are utilized appropriately.

Types...
There are basically two means of safeguarding a region’s unique resources: through designation, which often carries with it legislation and regulation; and through
Qualities...
When considering one of these tools, it is important to know several things about each one
--- What are its preservation goals
--- What agency would oversee, designate, design, construct, and manage it
--- Of what type is it: designation or construction
--- What are the regulations and restrictions associated with it
--- What kind of land ownership is required to institute it
--- What is its typical geographical size
--- What amenities does it offer
--- What would be the relative cost involved in its establishment
--- What opportunities can it provide
--- What are some precedents which show this tool's effectiveness

Through understanding of the site, the region's preservation needs, and the workings of each tool, an appropriate course of action can be selected and implemented.

Tools...
As mentioned above, tools can take the form of designations or constructed elements. Tools are defined by the qualities listed above and may vary greatly in their specific goals, size, administration, or other criteria. All tools, however, strive in some way to protect regional identity.

Below is a detailed description of one tool: the Heritage Area. An Heritage Area is usually the first tool implemented and may encourage other tools to be used within its boundaries.

Heritage Area
GOALS: Protection and preservation of total natural and cultural heritage. An Heritage Area takes into consideration historic, economic, social, and environmental elements. This is the most flexible designation in terms of elements considered and preserved.

MANAGEMENT: Any public body. Administration by town, county, state or coalition governments is possible. Because of this designation's vagueness, it generally is not federally recognized, but, for the inhabitants, it can be of great importance.

TYPE: Designation.

REGULATIONS: None. Usually employed to stimulate community self-awareness of regional identity, an Heritage Area often leads to, rather than being established by, area-wide incentives, development restrictions, and additional tools.

OWNERSHIP: Primarily private. Both public and private land may be incorporated, but an Heritage Area works best when land remains private. Since it is merely a designation, it encourages responsible use, but not seizure, of all land.

SIZE: Large. In order to adequately consider a region and its identity, it may tend to be large, but any size is possible, just as any type of administrative body.

AMENITIES: Possible. The designation of such an area does not necessarily bring with it tangible amenities for resident and visitor use, but may include the development of such amenities within its boundaries. These could include trail systems, autotour routes, museums, recreation areas, and festival grounds.

COST: Low. Because it is merely a designation, cost is minimal. The greatest expenditures would be the inventory of the area and marketing and publicity initiatives. (Ambleside Logic: Heritage Tourism Homepage)

OPPORTUNITIES: Further heritage recognition and further use of preservation tools. An Heritage Area is instituted primarily to reinforce or stimulate regional identity. Using the presence of such an Heritage Area as a justification, further initiatives can be more easily implemented.
Heritage Area (continued)

CASE STUDY: Southwest Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission (SPHPC). Established as a federal agency under the Department of the Interior, the SPHPC has begun privatizing its efforts to create a Heritage Area which spans 9 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Often referred to as the Alleghenies, this nine county region is one of the largest and most successful of a loose national coalition of Heritage Areas. It was instituted after a study undertaken by the National Park Service in 1985 called “A Reconnaissance Study of Western Pennsylvania Roads and Sites.” The NPS called for Congress to acknowledge the region’s unique heritage of iron mining, steel milling, transportation, and related industrial elements.

As a result, the nine-county, 8,000 square mile area has established a 600-mile autotour heritage route, and has coordinate local festivals to adequately relate the story of the region’s heritage. The SPHPC has successfully created awareness of their unique regional identity, stimulated the local economy, and begun clean-up efforts on polluted streams, lakes, and woodlands. All this has taken place simply through the designation of the region as an Heritage Area and the development of an autotour route to communicate the region’s story. It seems now that the residents of the Heritage Area understand and are proud of their heritage, and will fight to preserve it. (Ambleside Logic: America’s Regional Heritage Areas)
It is important to explore this tool, the Heritage Area, in detail, as it is the basis of this project, but it is also important to understand the function and qualities of other tools that will be used in this regional identity preservation initiative (RIPI). The tools used in conjunction with the Hoosier Heritage Area, as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, are described in detail, just as the Heritage Area above, in Appendix A. Below are listed groupings of tools that could be employed in a RIPI in the Midwest. Other tools exist, but are not listed, as basic knowledge of the Midwestern landscape rules out their effectiveness. For instance, the presence of a "Wild and Scenic River" is unlikely in Central Indiana.

Recognizing and Protecting the Human Element

Heritage Viewshed
Historical Park, Historic Viewshed, Historic Reserve
Historic District, Historic Site, Historic Marker
Agricultural Conservation Zone
Land Use Planning
Zoning

Recognizing and Protecting the Natural Element

Scenic Viewshed, Scenic Byway
Nature Preserve
Greenway

Providing for Outdoor Recreation and Other Human Use

National/State/County/City Park or Recreation Area
Long Distance Trail
Autotour Route
Service Points
Education Points

Any or all of these tools should be employed to compose the entirety of this Regional Identity Preservation Initiative. The Heritage Area is the base and the stimulus, upon which other tools will be built. Partnering tools with the landscape to be protected, however, requires a full knowledge of the project site and its attributes.
Chapter 5
The Project Site

Site Selection...
The Hoosier Heritage Area is located in southern Delaware and northern Henry counties. This site was chosen for numerous reasons.

Several towns, namely Cowan, Oakville, and Springport lie on a railroad used for transporting grain, and orient themselves around grain elevators. This example of town organization is very traditional in East Central Indiana and these well-preserved towns can accurately display that heritage.

The landscape of the area has some variety which is typical of East Central Indiana. Much of the land is devoted to agriculture and has little topographic change. There are two creeks, however, which run through the area, Bell Creek and Buck Creek, whose valley and drainage systems give rise to abrupt variations in topography and several types of wetlands. From an ecological standpoint, these areas are an important element in the life cycles of both plants and animals native to the area. From a cultural standpoint, they break the monotony of the farmlands with large stands of trees. This type of spatial interplay is typical of East Central Indiana.
In essence, the site contains two “character zones,” which give an overview of typical east central Indiana heritage.

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The Flatland Farms zone lies in the western portion of the site and consists of almost completely level agricultural land, divided by stands of deciduous trees in woodlots and hedgerows. The scattering of agricultural buildings and vegetation describes the settlement patterns, economy, and spatial layout of this zone. It also includes the three towns mentioned above, and the associated rail corridor.

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The River Valley zone in the eastern portion of the site possesses the greatest variety of topographical change. This zone demonstrates the actions of glacial and riverine land-sculpting, and has much more intact natural ecosystems, especially in Summit Lake State Park. Rare species and high quality ecological communities are most prevalent in this area. In addition, the variable glacial outwash gives rise to a different type of economy, which diversifies the cash-cropping of the Flatland Farms zone by adding pastureland and quarrying. Historically, this zone was the most settled and exploited, despite its fragile nature, but was vacated upon the arrival of the railroad to the west.

**Site Boundaries...**

Site Boundaries were chosen through a variety of criteria, and employ both natural and political boundaries. Generally, in the western portion of the site, property lines and settlement patterns dictate the site boundaries, while in the eastern, and more natural, portion of the site, they are determined by watershed and floodway boundaries. (See Appendix B)
Chapter 6
Inventory

History...

Understanding history is the key to regional identity preservation. History, by definition, is that which has already happened. In many rural areas such as this one, history is seldom globally nor nationally significant, but it constitutes the very fabric of the place on a local level. The placement of buildings, the hierarchy of roads, the existence of railways, canals, and trails, and the use of the land is a direct result of history.

The Region. The first known inhabitants of the area were prehistoric mound-builders, who left behind burial mounds throughout Henry, Delaware, and Madison Counties. The fate of these people is unknown, but they were later replaced by the Miami, who were displaced by the Delaware as they were forced westward by European settlers. In 1818, the Treaty of St. Mary's required that the Indians leave the territory and Central Indiana became a territory of the United States.

Most of the settlers came from North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. As these states were the most rugged of those already existing, the new settlers in Indiana were hardy and eager to make a difficult living from the land. They found the land quite arable, though covered with trees, meadows, and marshes, and were pleased with the absence of slavery in the new territory. The National Road (US Route 40) allowed rapid access to the region, and land purchases and agriculture began almost immediately after the region's acquisition (HCHS).
Henry County. Indiana was settled from the south and east, from Kentucky and Ohio, and for about 7 years, Henry County was the last organized frontier. The ambiguous Randolph County covered most of the land to the north and west (Spurgeon 13). The first actual land purchase in Henry County took place in 1821 and the county was organized in that same year. The county was named for Patrick Henry, a Virginia patriot, and the county seat was established at New Castle by the donation of 100 acres by a group of five pioneers (HCHS).

Jefferson Township. Upon arrival to one of the northernmost townships of Henry County, settlers found that the “lands are wet, but become fertile when drained,” and “covered with a heavy growth of timber” (HCHS.). There never were any large settlements in Jefferson Township, as most of the land is flat and rich and was farmed in its entirety throughout its history. There did exist, however a whisky distillery, which processed between 100 and 125 bushels of grain per day at its height. Jefferson Township was one of the last to be organized, being cut from Prairie Township in 1843.

Prairie Township. Directly to the east of Jefferson Township, this parcel, organized with the inception of the County, had a very different landscape. There were low, level, very wet meadows which lay sometimes 50 to 80 feet below the table lands. They were covered with “flowery leas” and struck the settlers as being valuable only for waterfowl (HCHS). The area referred to is the valley of the Glacial Blue River, which, though lower than the surrounding land, is the location of the drainage divide between the Big Blue River and Buck Creek. This area was later drained and farmed. It is still farmed today, and a system of channelized ditches laces the valley, along which grow remnants of the ancient wet prairie.

Luray was the main center of activity in northern Henry County. It was named for the county seat of Page County, Virginia, and was reputed to be the most important spot between New Castle and Muncie. It was a major trading center, supported the “finest flour mills in the county,” and provided home to a post office which operated from 1838 until 1901 and the institution of rural mail delivery (HCHS). Built in a wooded valley near the confluence of Buck Creek and Little Buck Creek, and along County Road 100E, and old Indian trail, Luray was an ideal location for milling, taverns, and other commercial ventures. When the railroad was built between New Castle and Muncie, the life went out of Luray and businesses turned their eyes westward.

Springport was always a railroad town. It was platted in 1868, as the Fort Wayne, Muncie, and Cincinnati Interurban Railroad and the Cincinnati and Indianapolis Junction Railroad were being completed between New Castle and Muncie (HCHS). Since it lies on glacial till just west of the floodway of the Little Buck Creek, numerous springs percolate out of the hillside near the Interurban depot, thus giving the town its name (Pitts, 2-3-97). The most famous attraction was Edward M. Worth’s unusual museum, which apparently showed such artifacts as precious jewels, a coat and sword of George Washington, the head of Charles J. Giteau, President Garfield’s assassin, and a “fountain of time” clock built from native wood and powered by an artesian spring. This museum, a mere 2 blocks from the train station brought visitors from many cities. The town in these early 1900s days boasted drug stores, general stores, a hotel, a livery, and a blacksmith (Pitts 2-3-97). When the Interurban closed in the 1960s, the town lost most of its glory. In 1977, the Springport Lions Club tried to restore the Interurban Station to house a Springport Museum, but they were unable to obtain funding. It is currently up for sale to any party wishing to rehabilitate the structure (HCHS).

Stoney Creek Township. “Varied surface soil and many varieties of timber” was what the original settlers found in this northeasternmost township of Henry County. There appeared to be more oak and less poplar and ash than elsewhere. Most interesting about the township is the now-known glacial activity that seemed to startle early settlers. They describe the area as being inversely covered with prairies in good bottomland and with high ridges, some of which had boulders scattered on their summits (HCHS). Most of this is due to a system of eskers and moraines at the glacial fringe just north of Summit Lake. This township, and to some extent Prairie township as well, has a landscape that is a great deal different than Jefferson Township to the west. Stoney Creek Township is named for a creek that runs northward through it to the White River, and it was designated in 1828 (HCHS).
Delaware County. This county just to the north of Henry County takes its name from an Indian tribe that settled along the banks of the White River after having been pushed westward by European settlers. The Leni Lenape, as they called themselves, or the Delaware, as they were renamed for the river along which they originally lived, had settlements at Munsee and Buckong najleastown, both of which are within the city limits of present day Muncie, the county seat (Spurgeon 12). After the Treaty of St. Mary's in 1818 and the platting of many counties to the south and east, present day Delaware County remained an undesignated territory. It was officially part of Randolph County or the Delaware Territory until its northern and western boundaries were drawn in 1827 (Spurgeon 18).

The landscape was forested with oak, hickory, poplar, beech, walnut, and maple and consisted of gravelly ridges and numerous small ponds and streams (Stoeckel 25). Most of the land was prime agricultural, and was promptly cleared and farmed. Muncie was the logical center and county seat from the very beginning, and thereby Delaware County escaped many of the political squabbles that occurred in other parts of the state (Spurgeon 22). Muncie was connected to the rails and the river, so it became a large transport and industrial center. To connect the more remote farmers with this county center, many private companies began building "pikes" throughout the county. These private roads began to make their appearance around 1860, but Monroe Township was basically ignored.

**Monroe Township.** Originally covered by dense forest, Monroe Township became an agricultural center of the county (Ellis). The largest poultry house in the state at the time existed in Cowan, a farmers co-op grain elevator operated, and still operates, in Oakville. Through its history, Monroe Township also supported grist mills, dairies, egg companies, and plenty of prime agricultural land (Hillman 6-9-88). It is no wonder that railroad companies, when linking central Indiana together, built lines between New Castle and Muncie that stopped along the way to pick up grain, eggs, chickens, and other agricultural products.

Cowan, located along the Norfolk and Western railroad, became a center of business and manufacturing (Hillman 6-7-88). The Barefoot Family's two story poultry house was the largest in the state at the time, and the train stopped twice a week with special cars to collect eggs and chickens. Samuel Hermann operated a private elevator for farmers who were not members of the co-op in Oakville, but he was basically run out of business by the co-op, sold the grain elevator, and opened the File Renew Company. The elevator burned in 1932, just after the Barefoot poultry house, which had met its end in 1928 (Hillman 6-9-88).

Oakville's farmers State Bank opened in 1915 to support the farmers co-op grain elevator. Situated adjacent to the railroad, the elevator was extremely successful, and still operates today under the name of the Farmers Elevator Company. It is said that Oakville was the center of banking and agriculture for the township because of the cooperative effort of the elevator and the financial institution (Hillman 6-7-88).

It is important to delineate the difference between history and heritage. History is the past, and whereas it affects the present, it stays in the past. Heritage is that which happened in the past, is happening now, and will happen in the future. History may show the existence of pioneering railroads used to ship the first coal from shaft mines in the mountains to factories. Heritage shows how and why those rails came to be, and encourages that they still be used to vitalize the economy and ally present-day people with their past.
**Historic Sites...**

The Indiana landscape abounds with locally significant historic sites and structures. Though many of them are not considered to be of national importance, they show a distinct vernacular landscape that has developed through time with respect for the land. The formalized inventory of historic sites began with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which declared that it was the policy of the federal government to acknowledge and respect the various **cultural resources** of the nation. Indiana commenced its Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in 1975 and has surveyed 56 counties to date (IDHPA, Henry Co., vi). Both Delaware and Henry Counties have been surveyed, and interim reports have been prepared which list all of the significant sites according to national evaluation criteria. These Interim Reports are merely an inventory, and hold no true weight, but those sites determined to be extremely significant may go on to achieve national designation.

**Interim Report Data.** The Interim Report shows maps of each township which have numbers that are keyed to descriptions of each particular site. Each site or structure is described as belonging to one or more “Historical Themes.” Certain themes are of primary importance in the inventory of the Hoosier Heritage Area.

--- **Vernacular/Construction.** Commonly used to describe houses, this theme recognizes the regional merger of foreign or early settlement housing types with adaptations specific to the area.

--- **Agriculture.** This theme is used to describe the development of the state’s primary land use.

--- **Architecture.** Reserved to describe structures of unique construction style, this theme does little to describe the overall vernacular landscape.

--- **Religion.** Some scattered sites in the Hoosier Heritage Area fall under this theme, which is used to describe the presence of old church buildings with a long-standing history in the area.

After determining a theme, the Interim Report rates the quality of each site using four categories.

--- **Outstanding (O).** This rating suggests present, or possible future, inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It describes sites of very high quality.

--- **Notable (N).** This rating describes an above average site which should be further researched or evaluated for inclusion on the National Register.

--- **Contributing (C).** This rating describes sites that are typical or essential to the fabric and spatial organization of the region, but have little outstanding quality by themselves.

--- **Non-Contributing (NC).** These sites have no significant historic character and are not included in the Interim Report (IDHPA, Henry Co., xvii-xxxii).

**Significance.** In the Hoosier Heritage Area, Interim Reports are used to determine vernacular sites, structures, and landscapes in the four townships with which this project is concerned: Jefferson, Prairie, Stoney Creek, and Monroe. The locations of these sites could be used to determine the value of small towns, agricultural lands, and housing areas. If a proliferation of significant sites occurs in a certain area, it can be assumed that that particular area is rich in high quality vernacular landscapes. For the landscape at hand, the most valuable themes for determining landscape value from a regional identity standpoint were the combination of **Vernacular/Construction** and **Agriculture.** Based on these criteria of historical theme and historic site concentration, it becomes clear that the southwestern corner of the site has the highest quality vernacular agricultural landscape. This landscape should be recognized and protected. A complete listing of historic sites and structures is found in Appendix C.
**Economics...**

Agriculture. The great majority of the land within the Hoosier Heritage Area is devoted to agriculture. Corn seems to be the most prominent crop, but some beans and wheat are cultivated. Some farmers also raise cattle, hogs, horses, and llamas. The reason for this proliferation of agricultural uses is due to the fertile soils and generally flat topography, both of which will be discussed later. The transportation industry and the existence of a large grain elevator in Oakville are also a result of agriculture. The railroad first came to the area to collect agricultural products from the landscape, and the elevator, still successful today, was created to support the cultivation and harvest of grains.

Quarrying. In addition to agricultural practices, some quarrying takes place on the site. Eskers left behind by the glaciers are composed of sand and gravel and provide an easy source for mineral products. One quarry, operated by Irving Materials, lies just south of Luray on the terminal moraine. These glacial formations, which provide an alternate economic base for the area, are discussed later.

Significance. The fact that the great majority of the Hoosier Heritage Area is devoted to agriculture, with only small parcels of land used for mineral extraction, is the top consideration during the design process. The entire character of the landscape is based on its agricultural nature, and any economic stimulation should focus on agricultural products, as it always has.

**Land Ownership...**

In the Hoosier Heritage Area, most of the land is in private ownership, though there are some parcels owned by the State of Indiana. The proliferation of private dominance in land ownership dates back to the days of early settlement, when land was sold cheaply and quickly to eager settlers willing to scrape a living from the land. Publicly owned parcels came into being much later, recognizing the need for ecological restoration and recreational opportunities.

Private Lands. The use of private land is governed by the zoning ordinances of Henry and Delaware Counties (see below), but these regulations are vague, and, therefore, the land is effectively under the sole control of the various land owners. Much of this private land exists in large parcels, as these are most conducive to agriculture. Originally, the land throughout this area was sold in sections or quarter-sections, but later, land was divided between families, sold in smaller parcels, and even consolidated, making the present property delineations much more irregular. It is this irregularity, however, that gives interest to the landscape.

Public Lands. There are a few publicly owned lands on the site, the most prominent of which is Summit Lake State Park. Located in the southeastern corner of the Hoosier Heritage Area, this 2552 acre park is open for use by the public. Boating, fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, and interpretive programs are offered in the natural setting of emergent wetlands, open lake, and floodplain forest. Two nature preserves are associated with the state park. One is located actually within the park and carries different regulations than the rest of the park, such as restrictions on boating and fishing. The other seeks to preserve a high quality stand of upland mesic forest. Some of this preserve is in private ownership, but because of certain requirements set up during its establishment, the preserve can be considered to have the qualities of public lands.

Salamander Swale is a small parcel which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. While technically in private ownership, this land is devoted to the safeguard of native ecosystems and endangered species of plants and animals, which distinguishes it from most of the privately owned land on the site.

There is a small parcel of land located on the uplands of Prairie Township which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is closed to hunting and other activity, and is held by the state as a wildlife reserve.
Significance. Needless to say, privately owned lands offer a challenge to design, as owners may be reluctant to see initiatives take place on their property. Therefore, wherever possible, development of recreational opportunities should be centered around either existing or proposed public lands, including those owned by organizations with a history of environmental stewardship. The greatest possibility for such development, therefore, exists in the eastern portion of the site, due to the presence of Summit Lake State Park and four other public areas.

Political Environment...

The Hoosier Heritage Area covers portions of five townships in two counties. Though most townships do not have their own governmental systems due to their rural nature, both counties have active governments, planning commissions, and historical societies. The recognition of township boundaries is important only from the standpoint of inventory, as reports on history and historic site inventories are undertaken by township.

Delaware County. Though the smaller contributor of land to the heritage area, Delaware County provides a much stronger and more formalized local government. The Hoosier Heritage Area covers parts of Monroe Township in the south center of the county. Of primary concern are the planning efforts which have taken place in Delaware County, because this county’s planning commission, unlike its neighbor to the south, is very active and quite concerned about the rapid development of the county. In addition to a complete zoning ordinance and maps, the Delaware County Planning Commission has developed two other documents which affect the present and future climate of the heritage area.

Land Use Plan. A draft land use plan has been prepared by the Delaware County Planning Commission. “The Muncie/Delaware County Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Draft” is an exhibition of great concern regarding growth and sprawl. The primary goal of the plan is to “guide positive development and growth.” After public meetings and extensive research, the Delaware County Planning Commission has established two specific objectives for the future land-use plan.

“Provide for the efficient and effective utilization of resources and long-term economic prosperity by minimizing sprawl and focusing development.”

“Preserve the small town character and quality of life of Muncie and Delaware County communities.”

The plan seeks to achieve these objectives by concentrating mixed-use development within Development Target Areas (DTA) throughout the county. The Planning Commission desires that these DTA preserve the small town character of the county, protect prime farmland, and minimize the need for additional infrastructure development. Cowan, a town within the Hoosier Heritage Area, is designated as one such DTA.

Transportation Plan. Through the “1995-2015 Delaware-Muncie Transportation Plan,” the Delaware County Planning Commission hopes to “guide the continuous development of an integrated intermodal transportation system.” Of particular note is Section V, which sets forth Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. A Bike Route Task Force, established in 1991, desires designated bike routes throughout the county and an increase in the amount of bikeable miles. After public survey and observation, four bike routes have been designated within the county, none of which, however, pass through the heritage area. A need for bike and pedestrian paths is evident, however, as non-motorized users are present in the Hoosier Heritage Area, and use will increase with the development of the area.
Henry County. The heritage area covers a larger portion of Henry County, including parts of Jefferson, Prairie, Stoney Creek, and Blue River Townships. Only part of one section of Blue River Township lies within the heritage area, so that township is not examined in great detail throughout this project. The Henry County Planning Commission, consisting of one person, administers the zoning ordinance. No other initiatives are in place and none are planned.

Zoning. Most of the land in both counties which lies within the Hoosier Heritage Area is zoned for agriculture, with small pockets of medium density residential and commercial in the town centers of Cowan, Oakville, and Springport. The A-1, or agricultural, zone allows for certain industrial and extraction uses, such as quarrying, as well as for parks, planned urban developments (contingent on review by the planning commission), and certain commercial businesses, such as kennels, produce sales, and campgrounds.

Significance. In essence, Delaware County recognizes the need for agricultural conservation and the addition of recreational amenities. The support of the Delaware County Planning Commission would be a great benefit to the heritage area, and may even urge the Henry County Planning Commission to realize the need for similar measures. It is important for the heritage area to stay within the goals of the residents of the two counties, who were surveyed, and who participated in public meetings during the creation of the two recent Delaware County plans. The heritage area will certainly meet these desires, as its goals of agricultural conservation, economic stimulation, and recognition through recreation certainly mesh with those of the residents.

Existing Services...

Services are rather meager within the heritage area itself, but many are offered in nearby towns or in the surrounding landscape. As a means of placing the Hoosier Heritage Area within its context, the services of the surrounding area are considered, along with those existing within the site.

Recreation. In East Central Indiana, recreational opportunities are not plentiful and are not connected to each other. Those that do exist are of high quality, but they often are so distant from town centers and from each other so as to require the use of an automobile in order to experience them. According to the Delaware County Recreation Master Plan, the activities most desired by residents were camping, hunting, and long distance hiking and biking. Currently, the recreational offerings of the area do not meet these desires.
Summit Lake State Park, found within the Hoosier Heritage Area, offers a great variety of recreational opportunities, including boating, fishing, hiking, and camping. The park, however, offers no connection with the surrounding landscape, and does not have a great deal of hiking and biking trails. Designed primarily as a day use or weekend use area, the park could serve as a gateway and recreational center for the Hoosier Heritage Area.

Memorial Park, managed by an independent parks board, is the oldest and largest memorial park in Indiana. It is located just south of the site along Route 3. Offering picnicking, boating, some hiking, and special event facilities, Memorial Park is a day use park which attracts visitors primarily from New Castle. With the implementation of a trail from Muncie to New Castle, Memorial Park could become a recreational and entertainment center of the area.

Prairie Creek Reservoir, just northeast of the Hoosier Heritage Area, offers a variety of recreational opportunities in a very informal, undesignated setting. Generally considered the best recreational area in Delaware County, Prairie Creek Reservoir offers extensive biking, boating, and picnicking facilities. Easily attached to Muncie and beyond by the future Cardinal Greenway, this area, with Summit Lake State Park, could form the backbone for a larger recreational initiative in East Central Indiana.

Mounds State Park, though rather distant from the Hoosier Heritage Area, is the nearest camping opportunity outside of Summit Lake State Park. Located on the banks of the White River, connections could be made to the site through waterways and small roads. Already connected into the Anderson Greenway, Mounds State Park could also offer a gateway to other services, which are offered in great abundance in Anderson.

Food/Lodging. A small restaurant operates in Oakville, right across the street from the Farmers Elevator Company, and eating establishments are plentiful in nearby Muncie, New Castle, and Middletown.

Camping exists within the site at Summit Lake State Park, but no other lodging opportunities are currently present. In the future small beds and breakfasts and country inns could be incorporated into the fabric of the existing towns, but for now, hotels in the vicinity are located in Muncie and New Castle.

Transportation. Route 3 passes through the site, effectively dividing the two character zones, and Route 36 skirts the southern boundary. These roads link the site with Muncie, New Castle, and Indianapolis. The other roads within the site are small, county maintained highways, which are used primarily by residents of the area. Many of these small roads are quite scenic, however, especially on the eastern half of the site, and these roads can be utilized for future autotour routes, and even for biking and hiking paths.

Significance. Essentially, the heritage area itself offers very little in the way of services, such as food, lodging, recreation, and gas. The area is supported, however, by the larger cities of Muncie and New Castle, linked easily to it by Route 3. The creation of a heritage area would hopefully call for the institution of other services, especially for recreation and lodging, but the area has a well enough developed transportation system that it could survive without these services for the time being.
Geology and Soils...

The principal reason why the East Central Indiana landscape is used for agriculture and quarrying is because of the soils that exist there. The Midwest is commonly known as the "breadbasket," the most fertile land in the world. This is because most of the soils that predominate throughout the Midwest are perfectly conducive to agriculture. The presence of these soils are because of ancient glacial activity that swept across the area thousands of years ago. Glaciers shaped the land, carved the valleys of present-day rivers, and deposited soil. To understand the workings of the ancient geological processes is to understand the reasons for the present day use of the land, and how the land may be used in the future.

Geologic History. The glaciers of the Pleistocene epoch advanced across East Central Indiana about 21,000 years ago. The stoppages of these glaciers during their retreats are responsible for most of the topography found in the Hoosier Heritage Area. A major terminal moraine runs in an arc across the site, beginning near Sulphur Springs, passing north of Springport, and roughly following the Buck Creek Valley eastward just south of the county line. The land to the south and east of this moraine was greatly affected by water running through and from the glacier. The most noticeable formation is the Glacial Blue River Valley. The present day Big Blue River runs in this valley from Summit Lake southward, but it was actually formed by a river emerging from the glacier about where Buck Creek enters the valley. An internal river ran southward through the glacier across present day Prairie Creek Reservoir and through present day Mount Pleasant. At the glacial edge, it burst out of its confinement and carved a wide, shallow valley running southward (Roepke). Today, this valley is actively farmed and benefits from the rich soils left behind by this glacial outwash.

Geologic Environments. On a geologic map, associations of glacial phenomena are catalogued based on the types of soil that is present in light of the known glacial action. Within the Hoosier Heritage Area, there is a very dynamic interplay of these geologic environments, due to the presence of prolonged glacial action in the area. (See Appendix D)

The delineation of these diverse glacial environments proves the existence of the terminal moraine and an outflow river in the area. Almost all of the land is good for agriculture, with certain spots being rich in gravel and sand deposits, and certain spots being even more rich in organic soils.

Soil Classification. Soil types have been painstakingly catalogued and mapped by the United States Soil Conservation Service. At the scale of this project, however, most soil information is too precise to gain a general overview of how the land itself affects the natural and cultural landscape. General Soil Maps have been developed, however, for each county that show associations, or groupings, of soils. These maps tell much about the basic composition of the area from a soil standpoint.

Within the Hoosier Heritage Area, there are three basic soil associations. Because Delaware and Henry County Soil Surveys do not correspond on the exact naming of soil associations, even though many are basically equivalent, the three major associations have been interpreted briefly below. (USDA SCS) (See Appendix E)

Flatland Soils. Found in the western portion of the site, west of Little Buck Creek Valley, these soils are good for agriculture and native hardwoods. They are moderately well drained and are found in flat areas.

River Slope/Glacial Outwash Soils. Occupying the rolling terrain between the valleys, these soils are moderately well suited to agriculture and do support native hardwoods. They are found on flat areas to steep slopes.

Riverbed Soils. As the name implies, these soils are found in the beds of Little Buck Creek, Buck Creek, and the Big Blue River. They are well suited for agriculture, though poorly drained in places, and support a variety of native ecosystems.
Significance. When considering the placement of productive agricultural endeavors and successful ecological restoration efforts, it is important to understand the soil composition so that these initiatives do not fail. Although there are not major differences between soils within the site, certain variations create conditions which may be better for certain efforts.

In the Hoosier Heritage Area, the only soils which may not support agriculture exist on the slopes leading into river valleys. These areas, however, will support native upland mesic forest ecosystems. The river valleys themselves and the uplands support agriculture very well, and the moist, organic bottomlands would provide prime habitat for native ecosystems.
Topography...

The basic “lay of the land” is a prime determinant of how it is used, what ecosystems are present, and what aesthetic quality it shows. In East Central Indiana, the landscape is the result of glacial activity, which was later traversed by complex drainage systems. This dichotomy between flatlands and stream valleys gives the Hoosier Heritage Area its two distinct character zones, and gives the East Central Indiana landscape its beauty.

Classification. There are essentially three types of topography within the heritage area. Steep slopes, or those having an estimated slope of greater than 8%, are areas of relatively rapid topographic change generally in one particular direction, such as a riverbank descending to the water. Moderate, or rolling, slopes generally have steepnesses of 2% to 8% and tend to undulate through systems of hills and valleys. Flat areas, or those with slopes of less than 2%, have little topographical change. In the Hoosier Heritage Area, the most topographical variety is in the eastern portion on the site, including the Buck Creek, Blue River, and Little Buck Creek Valleys. These areas form an obvious contrast with the western portion of the site, which is almost entirely flat.
Significance. Topographical change indicates the presence of fragile natural environments and causes difficulty for agricultural practices. The areas of high topographical change, therefore, are better suited for conservation efforts, while flat areas may be reserved for farming. Therefore, the western portion is topographically better suited for agriculture, while the eastern half requires environmental conservation efforts.

Hydrology...

National Wetlands Inventory Maps, Delaware County Floodplain Maps, and USGS Topographical Maps are used to create a hydrological inventory of the Hoosier Heritage Area. This inventory looks at the various streams that run through the area, the associated floodways and wetlands of these streams, the location and composition of other, isolated wetlands, and the greater picture of drainage in the surrounding vicinity. Because hydrology, like other natural systems, does not stop at heritage area boundaries, it is important to note that the hydrological elements inventoried here are parts of larger systems which extend far beyond the site. Though floodways and drainage divides form the boundaries of the Hoosier Heritage Area in places, many of the systems present on the site are linked to others beyond it.

Lakes, Streams, and Drainage. The most prominent hydrological feature in the Hoosier Heritage Area are the various small streams that drain the surrounding landscape. The entire area eventually drains to the White River, though some portions enter that principal watercourse much more quickly than others. The White River then drains to the Wabash River in the Ohio River/Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed. The White River is the longest river entirely within the state of Indiana, and it flows just to the north of the site through Muncie. This river is a major collector for most of the water from East Central Indiana.

A major drainage divide runs through the site, just north of Summit Lake and to the east of Little Buck Creek. This ridge divides water that drains directly to the White River and water that drains to the Big Blue River, and then into the Flatrock River, before entering the White River near its confluence with the Wabash. This second watershed takes a more southerly route than the former, and has its headwaters within the Hoosier Heritage Area.

Bell Creek. Running along the western edge of the site, Bell Creek begins near Sulphur Springs, a town just south of the heritage area, and joins with Buck Creek just before its confluence with the White River near Yorktown. The Bell Creek floodway forms the western boundary for the heritage area. Many wetlands are associated with the creek, most of them forested, and, despite its narrow watershed, Bell Creek is a constantly running watercourse.

Williams Creek. In its headwaters called the Peckinpaugh Ditch, Williams Creek drains into Bell Creek just north of the site. Its headwaters are within the heritage area. Williams Creek has a rather large watershed, but the Creek itself is often little more than a narrow marshy ditch.

No Name Creek. Having as its headwaters a complex system of wetlands, No Name Creek also drains into Bell Creek. Only a very small portion of the actual creek is within the heritage area, but the sensitive wetlands that exist north and southwest of Cowan do feed this minor stream.

Little Buck Creek. As its name implies, Little Buck Creek is a tributary of Buck Creek, which it meets near Luray, within the heritage area. Due to highly permeable glacial till surrounding the creek, water flow in the channel remains at a constant throughout the year. The floodway is wide, and is home to a great number of wetlands, both forested and emergent. The watershed itself is quite narrow, and may have been impacted by the construction of Route 3.
Buck Creek. The most prominent stream on the site, Buck Creek collects various small streams, including Little Buck Creek and Bell Creek, before merging with the White River near Yorktown. Buck Creek flows in portions of the Glacial Blue River Valley, but then turns northward through a wide floodway. Wetlands are plentiful just before the confluence with Little Buck Creek, and of particular interest is the north facing slope of the Brave Run Drain, which is covered with forest, emergent wetlands, and a fen.

Big Blue River. The only watercourse on the site that does not quickly drain to the White River, the Big Blue River runs southward for a great distance within the Glacial Blue River Valley. The Big Blue River has been dammed to form Summit Lake, site of Indiana’s newest state park. This lake and the nearby headwaters of the Big Blue River are home to many animals and high quality ecosystems, including floodplain forest and emergent wetlands.

Wetlands. A wetland is defined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as possessing any or all of three criteria (Kent 5).

“At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes.”

“The substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil.”

“The substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.”

Essentially, designation as a wetland hinges on the fact that the soil must be saturated at some point during every year, and that the vegetation present has adapted to this yearly inundation. The type of vegetation present is used to place wetlands in various categories.

There are essentially three types of wetlands within the Hoosier Heritage Area. These wetlands may either be associated with streams and rivers or may be found in isolated low spots throughout the agricultural landscape. The greatest variety of wetlands and the highest level of hydrological complexity occurs in the eastern portion of the site, around Summit Lake and within the Glacial Blue River and Little Buck Creek Valleys. For a more detailed description of the composition of the various wetlands found on the site, refer to Appendix F.

Forested Wetlands. These wetlands, associated with streambeds or found in isolated low spots in agricultural fields, support predominantly large woody vegetation. They differ from upland mesic forest in the type of trees they support. Silver Maples, Ashes, Sycamores, and Cottonwoods are typically found in these forested wetlands, though in drier areas, primarily those not associated with streams, some upland species, such as Oaks, Hickories, and Beeches, may be intermixed with the wetland species.

Emergent Wetlands. Great variety exists within this classification. The principal distinguishing quality is the general absence of trees. The emergent wetland is dominated by herbaceous plants, such as Rushes, Sedges, and Grasses, which tolerate wet conditions. These wetlands are found associated with streams, in isolated farm-field pockets too small to support trees, and on saturated hillsides. The latter is particularly prevalent in the eastern portion of the heritage area, where hillsides covered with Scouring Rush are plentiful.

Shrub Swamp. This rare wetland supports a combination of herbaceous plants and small woody shrubs. Due to conditions too wet for many trees, and often affected by fire or cutting, shrub swamps tend to be a transition between wetlands of other types. They are found on the fringes of very wet areas, such as floodway basins, drainage gullies, and swampy creek headwaters. This is exactly the case in the Hoosier Heritage Area, as shrub swamps, and even a fen, appear in the headwaters of No Name Creek and along the Buck Creek and Little Buck Creek floodways.

Through the National Wetlands Inventory, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is documenting all existing wetlands in the nation. The Hoosier Heritage Area has already undergone such an inventory, and the resulting data is used to locate and classify wetlands on the site.
Significance. Understanding the location of wetlands and the functioning of the hydrology of the site is important when determining areas that are sensitive to disturbance. Where wetlands occur in high concentration or have unique character, efforts should be undertaken to preserve them.

In the Hoosier Heritage Area, the most significant wetland systems are found along Bell Creek, Buck Creek, and Little Buck Creek; within Summit Lake State Park; and to the north and southwest of Cowan in the No Name Creek drainage area. These areas are of primary concern from an hydrological standpoint and should benefit from appropriate preservation and stabilization efforts.
Vegetation and Ecosystems...

The inventory of vegetation requires a variety of sources. General observation is the most accurate, but is supplemented by historical accounts, USGS Topographical Maps, and the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center. All of these sources together give a clear picture of the past and present of the vegetation and ecosystems of the area.

Ecosystems are not fully determined by the vegetation present. Vegetation, however, indicates climate, soil type, and wetness, and has an effect on animal life in the area. All of these qualities together describe an ecosystem, and, since vegetation is an indicator or a determinant of each one, it can be used to describe a particular environment.
Native Ecosystems. Based on the reports of early settlers, as described earlier, most of the land was covered with forest. This extensive ecosystem is easily classified as the Eastern Deciduous Forest, but is more commonly broken down into a variety of forest communities. The earliest settlers indicated the presence of Oaks, Hickories, Poplars, Beeches, Walnuts, and Maples, which describes a virtual mosaic of forest types, including Oak-Hickory and Beech-Maple (Spurgeon 24). It is likely that these two common Midwestern forest types were also intermixed with floodplain forest in river- and creekbeds.

Pioneers also described “low, level meadows” in the vicinity of the Glacial Blue River Valley (History of Henry Co.). This description indicates the presence of an extensive wet meadow or wet prairie. Including such moisture tolerant species as Milkweeds, Sedges, Joe-Pye Weeds, and Irises, wet prairies existed in low areas which were not prone to constant inundation. The wetness of the site is indicated by the fact that most of the area was drained before farming could take place. Before this drainage, the Glacial Blue River Valley supported waterfowl and a great variety of flowering plants (HCHS).

Present Day Ecosystems. Today, much of the landscape has changed drastically from its previously forested character. The forests that remain still include floodplain, Oak-Hickory, and Beech-Maple communities, but much of the land is devoted to a new ecosystem: agricultural land.

Agricultural Land. At its most basic level, agricultural land is cultivated prairie. Requiring well drained soil and consisting of herbaceous plants, agricultural land does provide habitat and food for small animals, insects, and birds, often to the chagrin of farmers. In the Hoosier Heritage Area, open crop fields, consisting almost entirely of corn, are interspersed with stands of woodland.

The highest quality agricultural land exists in places where soils are conducive to cropping and where historical sites are plentiful enough to describe an extensive vernacular landscape. This high quality agricultural land is primarily found in the western portion of the site, between Springport and Bell Creek.

Forested Areas. Existing primarily along streambanks and in isolated woodlots within the agricultural landscape, regrowth of the ancient Eastern Deciduous Forests provides habitat, food and spatial organization. Oak-Hickory, Beech-Maple, and floodplain forests intermix, depending on the specific conditions of the site.

Areas of Scrub Vegetation. Though technically members of any of the forest communities listed above, areas of scrub vegetation display an entirely different landscape. Found along the edges of streams and property lines, these immature communities of trees and shrubs are still determining their exact composition. They often support a great diversity of vegetation, including wildflowers, grasses, small trees, and shrubs.

High Quality Ecological Communities. According to the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, certain parcels within the Hoosier Heritage Area are ecosystems of particularly unique or high quality. Three of the four sites within the heritage area are prime examples of upland mesic forest, effectively a combination of the Oak-Hickory and Beech-Maple communities. One high quality ecological community, found along Brave Run, is a rare type of wetland. This fen supports a variety of water-loving plants, birds, and amphibians.

Significance. Vegetation often determines the visual character of a site, and, therefore, has great bearing on the type of preservation efforts that should be employed. The dominant presence of farmland, for instance, would not warrant large scale ecological conservation tactics. The presence of forest or scrub vegetation also provides a better atmosphere for trails.

In the Hoosier Heritage area, the western portion of the site is dominated by agriculture, while the eastern half is much more forested and ecologically diverse. Therefore, agricultural conservation efforts should be concentrated west of the Little Buck Creek Valley, and the remainder of the heritage area should be considered for environmental preservation and rehabilitation efforts.
Chapter 7
Analysis

Introduction...
After a comprehensive inventory of the site, all collected data must be analyzed for its significance to the project. An analysis relates the sum total of all data collected. This data is greatly simplified to show the most important themes, and it leads directly to decisions made during the comprehensive planning process.
Themes...
Several themes are very important in regards to regional identity. A good understanding of these themes allows for an accurate simplification of the data, which in turn leads to a simple, but accurate, comprehensive plan.

Agriculture. The farmed land itself, along with other agricultural activities, is a great determinant of regional identity. A great percentage of the heritage area is farmed, and this farming should continue under the protection of the heritage area.

Ecology. Soils, vegetation, and hydrology, have a major effect on the landscape. In turn, they have been affected by agricultural practices. Many of the native ecosystems are seen only in a few isolated woodlots and riverbeds, but there are places where such systems can be reintroduced.

Diversity. Differences in character, even on this small scale, are evident in the dichotomy between the hilly eastern and the flat western portions of the site. The designation of “character zones” adequately shows the location of this diversity, and will help in the choice and implementation of tools, which must be appropriate to each zone.

Character Zones...
Though discussed earlier, “character zones” become even more important during the analysis of the site. The understanding and delineation of these character zones allows for the accurate coupling of tools with the landscape, assuring adequate and accurate preservation techniques.

The Flatland Farms Zone. Found in the western portion of the site, this zone consists of almost completely level agricultural land, divided by stands of deciduous trees in woodlots and hedgerows. The scattering of agricultural buildings and vegetation describes the settlement patterns, economy, and spatial layout of this zone.

The Prairie Valley Zone. Possessing the greatest variety of topographical change, this zone is found within and east of the Little Buck Creek Valley. It demonstrates the actions of glacial and riverine land-sculpting, and has much more intact natural ecosystems, especially in Summit Lake State Park. Rare species and high quality ecological communities are most prevalent in this area. In addition, the variable glacial outwash gives rise to a different type of economy, which diversifies the cash-cropping of the Flatland Farms zone by adding pastureland and quarrying. Historically, this zone was the most settled and exploited, despite its fragile nature, but was vacated upon the arrival of the railroad to the west.
Areas Considered...

Based on the knowledge of character zones and searching for data relating to the important themes described above, certain areas throughout the site are considered to be worthy of further consideration. These are the areas that must have the highest priority when preservation efforts are planned and tools are employed.

Area of High Quality Agriculture. Based on inventory of soils and historic sites and on general observation, this area is the most actively farmed and possesses the best examples and greatest variety of outbuildings, crops, machinery, and houses. It is located on the western fringe of the site between Bell Creek and Springport. This area has a very high concentration of active and historically significant farms, and should remain in the agricultural state in which it presently exists.

Area of High Scenic Quality. Centered around the Glacial Blue River Valley, this area possesses scenic vistas and roads, remnants of pre-settlement ecosystems, and striking contrasts in elevation. Since it is the most aesthetically pleasing vernacular landscape, even though high quality agriculture or ecosystems may not be present throughout the area, it deserves safeguards applicable to the preservation of visual quality.

Areas of Ecological Concern. Generally located in riverbeds and wetlands, these are areas that could be adversely impacted by surrounding land uses. They are also home to many of the site's rare species and high quality ecosystems. Because of their sensitive nature, crucial wildlife habitat, and potential impact on downstream ecosystems, these fragile environments should benefit from strategies employed to protect them.

The Bell Creek Basin currently supports scattered patches of floodplain forest and a variety of riverine and palustrine ecosystems. Of particular concern is the middle section, which meanders through marshes and forests and agricultural land on its way to the White River.

Southern Monroe Township is home to the headwaters of No Name and Williams Creeks. The headwaters themselves and the drainage divide between them are presently very marshy and, in places, covered with second growth upland mesic forest. This indicates that they are too wet to farm, but present conditions do not provide adequate safeguards to prevent agricultural runoff into the creeks, which eventually join with the White River.

The Little Buck Creek Floodway is a unique geological phenomenon. Due to the presence of large amounts of glacial till, water percolates through the surrounding soil at a very constant rate, keeping flow in Little Buck Creek at a relative constant all year (Roepke). This, and the fact that the floodway is farmed and the creek eventually joins the White River, indicates the need for some stabilization and restoration efforts.

The Brave Run Drain is a hillside near the headwaters of Buck Creek that is saturated with creeks, marshes, and other wetlands. Rare species of plants and animals make their homes here, and the unusual presence of a fen, likely a result of large amounts of glacial till, indicates a truly interesting site. Agricultural lands and a quarry nearby, however, threaten this hillside, and some protection is recommended.

Summit Lake State Park, along with some high quality examples of upland mesic forest, exists in the eastern portion of the site. Biodiversity is higher here than anywhere in the Hoosier Heritage Area, and the forests, wetlands, and lake provide a haven for rare or endangered birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Much of this area is already under good protection from the state park, but some outlying areas, though just as sensitive and important, are currently threatened by development and agriculture.

Centers of Activity. Consisting of the site's four towns, Cowan, Oakville, Springport, and Luray, and Summit Lake State Park, these are areas where residents and visitors might congregate or find services and amenities. These centers of activity should be utilized as focal points for the heritage area.
Significance...

There are essentially four different types of areas considered as deserving of preservation efforts. These areas sometimes overlap and may come in conflict with each other. Agricultural runoff and fertilizers often have a negative effect on nearby areas of ecological concern. In these cases, compromises need to be made, most often in the favor of the natural environment, as sensitive areas are much more rare than high quality farmland.

In the comprehensive planning process, the interfaces between differing areas of consideration are of particular concern. The East Central Indiana landscape is one of agricultural land interspersed with hedgerows, woodlots, and creeks, most of which are truly sensitive ecological systems. Therefore, preservation efforts should strive to preserve this mosaic by solidifying the position of sensitive ecological areas. These areas are more likely to become polluted or to be removed than is agricultural land, and, thus, its preservation is of a higher priority when such uses come in contact.

By undertaking an accurate inventory and interpreting it in a simplifying manner through the above analysis, it is easy to see the sites that require the most sensitive design, the most scrutiny, and the most care.
Chapter 8
Hoosier Heritage Area Comprehensive Plan

Intent...
The Hoosier Heritage Area Comprehensive Plan is the first step toward regional identity preservation in East Central Indiana. The tools used in this initiative are some of many that could be utilized within the framework of the Heritage Area. This Comprehensive Plan lays out the means by which residents may safeguard their heritage and by which visitors may experience that heritage. It seeks to understand and provide opportunities for the experience of the general regional identity of East Central Indiana.

Components...
The Comprehensive Plan is made up of a variety of tools. These tools and their function are described in detail in Chapter 4 and Appendix A. Together, they strive to most effectively accomplish the goal of this regional identity preservation initiative: to protect the regional identity of East Central Indiana. Two types of tools are used in this Comprehensive Plan:

- Designations
- Constructed Elements
Designations...
Designations are zones overlaid upon the existing landscape. Within their boundaries may exist certain benefits, restrictions, or legislation. A designation has a specific preservation goal for a particular resource, and seeks to, within its boundaries, increase awareness and protection of the resource.

Hoosier Heritage Area Boundary. The Heritage Area Boundary is a temporary element. It is hoped that surrounding lands will in the future be incorporated into the Hoosier Heritage Area. At this point, however, the boundary describes an adequate sampling of the regional identity of East Central Indiana. It is determined using property lines, roads, floodway boundaries and watershed divides. The delineation of the heritage area is discussed in more detail in Chapter 5 and Appendix B.

Agricultural Conservation Zone. Situated in the area of highest quality agricultural land, this zone protects the farm community by restricting new development and encouraging the continuation of family-operated cash crop farms. Economic stimulation could also take place in the form of roadside produce stands, new farmhouse lodging opportunities, and seasonal events.

Little Buck Creek Greenway. A Greenway is a zone that seeks to increase environmental awareness and stewardship within its boundaries. The Little Buck Creek Valley is an ecologically sensitive area because it is very wet and it is used for intensive cropping and residential development. Reforestation programs, experimental ecologically sensitive agriculture, and wetland rehabilitation take place within this Greenway.

Buck Creek/Blue River Heritage Viewshed. This, the most scenic portion of the Heritage Area, requires a special designation never before used. The Buck Creek/Blue River Valley, or the Glacial Blue River Valley, is scenic due to its vernacular nature. The heritage that exists in the form of historic and present agriculture deserves recognition and protection. A viewshed regulates the aesthetic quality of an area, realizing that this pleasing appearance is a result of responsible use of the land. In this viewshed, some restoration efforts are encouraged, such as the reintroduction of native wet prairie that existed in the valley before settlement.

Summit Lake State Park. Indiana’s newest state park is devoted to the rehabilitation of native ecosystems: upland mesic forest, floodplain forest, and both wet and dry prairie. The facilities offered by the park, camping, boating, fishing, and others, meet the needs of most of the heritage area’s residents. The park also acts as an anchor for trails, autotour routes, and ecological programs.
Nature Preserves. Four parcels within the heritage area already have goals of environmental preservation. Three are owned by the state and the other by The Nature Conservancy. All existing nature preserves provide habitat for endangered species and preserve native ecosystems. These Nature Preserves are further described in Chapter 6, "Land Ownership."

In addition to these four existing Nature Preserves, four new Nature Preserves are proposed for the heritage area. They, like their existing counterparts, strive to protect fragile ecosystems.

**Bell Creek Park and Nature Preserve.** Consisting of a linear corridor along the creek and anchor points at each end, this preserve protects upper Bell Creek and its associated wetlands, and provides trail access and educational opportunities.

**Monroe Township Nature Preserve.** Found in the headwaters of No Name Creek and straddling the No Name/Williams Creek Drainage Divide, this preserve focuses on the rehabilitation of what presently are mere fragments of upland mesic and floodplain forest.

**Brave Run Drain Nature Preserve.** Located in perhaps the most hydrologically interesting portion of the heritage area, this preserve creates a buffer for upper Buck Creek, stabilizes a hillside which is laced with creeks, and protects a rare fen from agricultural and quarry pollutants.

**Ziegler Nature Preserve Extension.** This proposed addition to an existing preserve will protect a high quality stand of upland mesic forest.

**Constructed Elements...**

Constructed Elements allow for the experience of the landscape through the actual development of material structures, such as museums, trails, and autotour routes. These tools usually have a recreational focus and encourage interaction with the region.

**Trails.** Long distance trails, which connect other tools within the heritage area, allow visitors and residents alike to experience the heritage of the area. Trails can be put in place in a number of ways, consideration always being given for the type of landscape through which a trail passes.

**Streambanks** often rest unused by farmers and usually have some woodland growth. Through reclamation, purchase, or easement, streambanks can become aesthetically pleasing trails.

**Existing and Proposed Parks** are perhaps the easiest places to put trails, as they are already owned by the community or the state and often are wooded.

**Agricultural Areas** can provide a good close-up look at regional identity. By utilizing easements, property lines, and unused woodlots and hedgerows, trails can harmlessly traverse the farm landscape.

**Minor Roads** are not often thought of as trail-making opportunities, but even with no further development, a small county road can provide an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere and a true look at the landscape.
The trail system of the Hoosier Heritage Area exists as two loops, one concentrating in the Flatland Farms Character Zone, and the other in the prairie Valley Character Zone. (Appendix G)

**Western Loop.** This trail begins in Cowan, and makes a loop through the western portion of the site. It traverses the Little Buck Creek Greenway, the Agricultural Conservation Zone, and the Monroe Township Nature Preserve, as well as winding along Williams Creek and through woodlots and hedgerows.

**Eastern Loop.** Beginning in Luray, this trail explores the eastern half of the site, following the western loop down the Little Buck Creek Greenway, connecting to Summit Lake State Park, and running the length of the Buck Creek/Blue River Heritage Viewshed. It also follows and connects to the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail.

**Buck Creek/Blue River Trail.** This trail passes through the heritage area on its proposed route from Muncie to New Castle. It stays in the valleys of the Big Blue River and Buck Creek and merges with the route of the eastern loop.

**Trail Access Points.** Usually found where trails come in contact with roads or towns, trail access points provide minimal services and trail locator maps.

**Autotour Routes.** Essentially long distance trails for vehicular travel, autotour routes run on existing roads throughout the site. There are two tours within the Hoosier Heritage Area, each giving an overview of a particular character zone and including stopping points and directional signage. (Appendix H)

**The Flatland Farms Route** runs through the western portion of the site, the towns of Oakville and Cowan, and the Agricultural Conservation Zone.

**The Prairie Valley Route** traverses the undulating territory of the eastern half of the site. It passes Summit Lake State Park, the scenic Muncie Pike, the historic village of Luray, and the Glacial Blue River Valley.

**Service Points.** In the Hoosier heritage Area, certain sites are designated as centers of activity and amenities. Service points are located at sites that already have some amenities, but these communities are encouraged to further their offerings with local artisans and businesspeople.

**Summit Lake State Park,** already offering various amenities, acts as a recreational center for the heritage area.

**Cowan,** home to a high school and targeted as a site potentially impacted by development, should be encouraged to grow responsibility and within the character of the region. If successful, Cowan will provide many services to residents and visitors, such as food, lodging, businesses, and markets.

**Springport,** the largest town within the heritage area, has historic sites, ecologically sensitive areas, and ready access to farmland. In essence, it is the Hoosier Heritage Area in nutshell, and will be the principal visitors' center.

**Luray,** which lies at a major crossroads of recreational and economic opportunities, could use its historic character to become a center for lodging and markets.
Chapter 9
Conclusion
Summary...

As stated in the introduction, there are four objectives in accomplishing the overriding goal of regional identity preservation.

Understanding the regional character of east central Indiana
This is accomplished along with inventory, as the pure experience of the region, the site in particular, allows for the understanding of regional identity.

Understanding the tools for regional identity preservation, which are found in various case studies
This is accomplished through the various case studies and the descriptions of "tools of regional identity preservation."

Undertaking an accurate inventory of the selected project site
This objective is perhaps the most time-consuming and detailed part of this project. Outlined in Chapter 6, the extensive inventory of the Hoosier Heritage Area allows for a successful analysis. This analysis, a simplified comprehensive inventory, is the culmination of this objective.

Applying appropriate design tools to the selected project site
This objective is accomplished by the creation of the Hoosier Heritage Area Comprehensive Plan. This plan, which is based on the extensive inventory and analysis and utilized the various tools of regional identity preservation, is the means by which East Central Indiana's regional identity is preserved.

Significance...

Regional diversity, historically, occurred as a result of dealing with a diverse environment. To homogenize ourselves will lead to a general homogenization of the environment, and this must be prevented. Pride in local crafts, local produce, and community allows people to take more of an invested interest in their localities. Homogenization occurs when a hometown is reduced to a strip mall, local crafts are replaced by mass-produced hardware, and local produce is rejected for flown-in canned food. This destroys any local pride and community awareness. In order to create better towns, better products, better schools, and better lives, it is necessary to get the local populace behind the locality, to establish, once again, pride of place. Strategies to preserve regional identity and stimulate regional awareness can recreate this pride. By working together with the environment, humans can live safer, more productive, more enjoyable lives. Because regionalism stems from an acceptance of and a cooperation with the environment, it is truly the means by which to accomplish this goal.

In the Midwest, initiatives such as this are rare, even though it is a region experiencing great development and growth. It is important to apply a Regional Identity Preservation Initiative to the Midwest because of the homogenization that is taking place. Though it is often overlooked by environmental and cultural initiatives, the Midwest, specifically East Central Indiana, is a region worthy of preservation.
Appendix A: Tools of Regional Identity Preservation

**Agricultural Conservation Zone**

**GOALS:** Protection and preservation of prime agricultural lands. An Agricultural Conservation Zone is a new tool that seeks to assure the existence of agriculture in the landscape in perpetuity.

**MANAGEMENT:** Any public body. Because of the scale of this tool, public agencies are most likely, through zoning, to create an Agricultural Conservation Zone. However, a land-owners’ co-op may also establish one.

**TYPE:** Designation.

**REGULATION:** Strict. By restricting development and offering incentives for the continuation of farming, an Agricultural Conservation Zone can succeed in preserving the agricultural landscape.

**OWNERSHIP:** Private. The essence of farming is the family farm. These smaller parcels of land, owner and operated by the tenants through generations, are crucial to the success of this tool.

**SIZE:** Unrestricted. As long as there is prime agricultural land, an Agricultural Conservation Zone may protect it, no matter the size.

**AMENITIES:** None. The purpose of this tool is to safeguard agriculture, and therefore, while it may provide space for other tools, an Agricultural Conservation Zone provides no amenities of its own.

**COST:** Low. The only cost involved is that required to set up the proper inventory and legislation. Because no amenities are developed, the cost can stay low.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Economic stimulation, recognition of the vernacular landscape. Through small farmers’ markets and the incorporation of trails, autotour routes, historic sites, and other tools, an Agricultural Conservation Zone can allow for increased agriculturally-based economic prosperity, as well as, the interpretation of a unique landscape.

**Greenway**

**GOALS:** Environmental consciousness. A Greenway is an informal designation which can serve as a catalyst for other initiatives. The designation of a Greenway suggests that the protected land is unique, fragile, or essential to surrounding ecosystems or the overall value of the area.

**MANAGEMENT:** Any. Almost any organization can designate a Greenway, such is the flexibility of this initiative. Often, it works best when set forth by a public body, but semi-private organizations and non-profit environmental corporations may attempt to stimulate environmental awareness in this manner.

**TYPE:** Designation.

**REGULATION:** None. A Greenway strives to increase concern and consciousness about a particular natural system, and will likely lead to other initiatives. It does not, however, on its own, regulate use in any way.

**OWNERSHIP:** Public and private. A Greenway may incorporate lands held by the town, county, or state, as well as those in private ownership. Often, private lands can be controlled by a public body through the use of an easement in order to gain necessary land for restoration projects and trails.

**SIZE:** Unrestricted. Most often, a Greenway is a linear element following a significant natural feature, such as a river or drainage divide. It may follow that natural feature for its entire length or merely for the distance it traverses a town, county, or state.

**AMENITIES:** Possible. Amenities may or may not be included in the designation of a Greenway. Trail systems, educational centers, and restoration projects can be constructed along with the creation of a Greenway, but are not necessary to the inception of such an initiative.
Greenway (continued)
COST: Variable. The project cost depends entirely on the amount of amenities to be constructed within the Greenway. The mere designation of such a corridor is very low in cost.

OPPORTUNITIES: Recreation, education, ecological restoration and rehabilitation. Through the establishment of a greenway, an organization or agency hopes to make apparent the need for other measures, such as reforestation projects, wetlands restorations, educational centers, or trail systems. It is generally suggested that new uses be compatible with the overriding ecologically sensitive nature of the Greenway.

CASE STUDY: Anderson, Indiana. In 1995, the idea of a greenway was explored in this mid-sized city in East Central Indiana. Centered around the White River, which runs through the center of town, the Anderson Greenway includes a series of parks, trails, and boat launches which allow users to experience the river and escape the city. The greenway boundary was based primarily on the floodway of the White River, with adjacent green space included. Therefore, much private land, including industrial and residential uses, were found within the greenway. These land uses were not removed, but encouraged to be more environmentally conscious, because of the impact they could have on the River.

Heritage Viewshed
GOALS: Protection and preservation of vernacular aesthetics. This tool focuses on the aesthetic quality of a particular area. Grain harvesting, coastal fishing docks, cattle herding, and lumbering, when executed responsibly, are all a part of the national heritage of the United States. An Heritage Viewshed strives to protect not only the landscape itself, but also the economic and social activities that take place on it.

MANAGEMENT: Any public body. Though there is currently no precedent for this tool, the National Park Service has established both Scenic Viewsheds and Historic Viewsheds, and, therefore, could designate an Heritage Viewshed. However, state or county designations could be just as powerful.

TYPE: Designation.
REGULATION: Moderate. As heritage describes that which is developing, it would go against the goals of heritage preservation to place a moratorium on all change. This practice is found with Scenic and Historic Viewsheds. In an heritage Viewshed, development is required to remain consistent with the surrounding landscape, though development, especially when relative to the local economic base of the area, is encouraged.

OWNERSHIP: Private. As with many large-scale heritage preservation tools, it is of utmost importance that land stay in the hands of the landowners. The aesthetic quality of the area depends on the continued use of the land.

SIZE: Unrestricted. Most often, Viewshed boundaries are defined by lines of sight, so a Viewshed often ends at a ridge, stand of trees, coastline, or valley. The size of this feature, however, is variable, and, therefore, the viewshed can be any size, in order to adequately protect the resource.

AMENITIES: None. Many low-impact amenities, such as trails, autoroute routes, and parks are consistent with the aesthetic quality of an area, and could be incorporated into the viewshed. However, an Heritage Viewshed concentrates on safeguarding visual quality and offers no amenities of its own.

COST: Low. Only the cost of inventory and legislation exists, as no amenities are included in the design of an Heritage Viewshed.

OPPORTUNITIES: Economic conservation, recreational opportunities. The beauty of the site lies in the active use of the land for a specific purpose. Therefore, the conservation of this economy naturally follows the goals of the Heritage Viewshed. In addition, recreational opportunities can be incorporated as they allow users to experience the landscape without having a negative effect of the aesthetic quality.
National/State/County/City Parks or Recreation Areas

GOALS: Provision for recreation, education, and conservation in an outdoor setting. Parks of various jurisdictions may have more specific goals, but generally they all strive to bring humans closer to the natural environment in some manner, whether it be through exposing them to specific natural systems or by providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Generally, the difficulty with such a program is the challenge of creating successful interaction between humans and the environment.

MANAGEMENT: State government. Parks take their names according to the level of government action which established them. National Parks and County Parks may have similar goals, and generally differ only in size and administration.

TYPE: Designation. Constructed elements often are created along with land designation.

REGULATION: Strict. The governing body controls all the land within a park, and, therefore, new development is usually impossible.

OWNERSHIP: Public. Though often charging entrance fees, parks are open to all and are owned by the governmental agency which created them, either the Federal Government, a state environmental agency, or a county parks board.

SIZE: Unrestricted. Parks may range from single city blocks to millions of acres. Typically, the larger the establishing body, the larger the park can be, as they have more buying power and broader jurisdiction. Size, however, is not a criteria for establishing a park.

AMENITIES: Many and varied. Governments have great flexibility in choice of amenities when establishing a park. Some parks in Alaska do not even have roads, while others may have extensive systems of accessible trails, picnic shelters, lodges, and even amusement parks. Parks are almost always developed for human use, but the extent and type of development varies from park to park.

COST: High. Because a governmental agency must purchase all of the land within a park and develop appropriate amenities, construction and operation cost can be very high. Many agencies, however, do budget for new development programs, and can even pass referenda to support such costs.

OPPORTUNITIES: Ecological restoration, preservation, and conservation. Because the primary goals of parks include allowing humans ample access and support facilities, they are very popular and generate revenue. This revenue can be used to undertake ecological programs consistent with the goals of the park, including "no-touch" areas reserved for the natural environment, and restoration or reintroduction areas designed to return native species to the region.

CASE STUDY: Summit Lake State Park. Indiana’s newest state park already exists within the Hoosier Heritage Area. Its specific purpose is to allow for recreation on a constructed reservoir, and to protect the habitat of over 100 species of birds. The park accomplishes these goals through certain areas with no development, boat rentals, fishing piers, trails, and boat ramps.

Nature Preserve

GOALS: Ecological protection and rehabilitation. The state of Indiana has instituted a program to recognize and protect the state’s fragile natural areas.

MANAGEMENT: The Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This agency oversees the designation of Nature Preserves, and sometimes purchases and manages them. The Indiana DNR has created a Division of Nature Preserves devoted solely to this purpose.

TYPE: Designation.

REGULATION: Strict. Possesses regulations on use, and outlaws development of any kind besides trails.

OWNERSHIP: Public or private. Nature Preserves can be designated on private land through the agreement of landowners, or may be purchased by the state. They may also be contained within existing State Parks.

SIZE: Unrestricted. In Indiana, Nature Preserves are typically rather small, as there is little land untouched by human intervention. There is theoretically no limit, however, to the size of such an initiative. If a fragile natural area covers a large parcel of land, a Nature Preserve should protect it in its entirety.
Nature Preserve (continued)

AMENITIES: **Few.** On private property, Nature Preserves typically remain undeveloped. On public land, they may be traversed by trails or contain educational nodes.

COST: **Low.** Due to construction restrictions, designation is the primary action involved in the creation of a Nature Preserve. Trails and signage may exist, but they generally remain rustic. Cost associated with a Nature Preserve rises dramatically if any ecological rehabilitation efforts are planned.

OPPORTUNITIES: **Ecological recognition, education, and rehabilitation.** Due to strict regulation, Nature Preserves often benefit from an undisturbed, or even unknown, environment. The possibility for restoration projects, scientific experimentation and observation, and community education is great.

CASE STUDY: **Summit Lake Nature Preserve.** Found within Summit Lake State Park, this nature preserve has different regulations than the rest of the park. No fishing or boating is allowed, and the primary focus is upon wildlife, particularly the over 100 species of birds that reside in this northeast finger of Summit Lake. By instituting different regulations, an area designed for ecological preservation can exist within any landscape.

Long Distance Trails

GOALS: **Provision for recreation and education in an outdoor setting.** A long distance trail is defined as a trail that is not contained within one park, recreation area, or other managed parcel of land. Such a trail seeks to provide recreation of a strenuous or time-consuming nature, though casual hikers may utilize small portions of the trail. As with most outdoor recreation initiatives, education is a secondary goal that tends to occur whenever humans associate with the natural environment.

MANAGEMENT: **Any public or semi-public body.** Depending on the extent of the trail, it may be administered by the Federal Government, a State, a County, or a non-profit trail management corporation. Often, large governmental agencies, such as the National Park Service, will aid semi-public organizations in the creation and maintenance of long-distance trails. Coalitions of counties or states are also possible if the trail crosses political boundaries and thereby requires a cooperation between governments.

TYPE: **Constructed Element.**

REGULATIONS: **Moderate.** Because a long distance trail's jurisdiction only extends the width of the trail right-of-way, few regulations can exist. Trails are typically limited to certain types of use. In the Fox River Valley, Illinois, a trail stretching from St. Charles to Geneva allows walkers, bikers, and other non-motorized users, while in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan there is an informal system of trails which are exclusively used by snowmobiles.

OWNERSHIP: **Primarily public.** Though the trail itself and its right-of-way may be owned by a particular agency or organization, the land through which it passes is in private ownership, except when the trail passes through parks and other governmentally managed lands. A trail may be placed in conservation or recreation easements on private land, and may even follow roadways or property lines.

SIZE: **Moderate to large.** A trail is as wide as its use dictates, sometimes as narrow as 5 feet, but its length may extend for hundreds of miles. The length, however, is variable and can range from the Appalachian Trail which stretches from Maine to Georgia, to a connection between parks in the same county or township. The requirement for such a trail is not its length, but that it passes outside of otherwise established public land.

AMENITIES: **Few.** The trail itself provides the greatest recreation amenity, but other support services, such as campgrounds, water, and food are typically contained in parks, recreation areas, and towns along the trail.
Long Distance Trails (continued)

COST: **Moderate.** A long distance trail may be merely a narrow footpath trampled through the underbrush, or it may be a wide, paved, intense use trail flanking a river through an urban area. It is upon this character that the cost depends. The cost of building a trail is never as high as is building its support facilities, but the more formalized the trail becomes, the more expensive it will be.

OPPORTUNITIES: Connection between other tools and experience of the vernacular landscape. Long distance trails allow visitors and residents to experience the land through which they are traveling. It is this association with the landscape that increases understanding of it and care for it. Trails can also provide the backbone for a Regional Identity Preservation Initiative, as they connect what may be otherwise disjointed tools in the area. This connection allows people to experience the region as a whole, and to get an accurate sense of the environment in which they live or which they are visiting.

CASE STUDY: The Ice Age Trail. Tracing the historic glacial fringe in Wisconsin, this hiking trail meanders its way through state forest, national forest, state parks, private lands, and river corridors. Put in place by a non-profit organization with help from the state Department of Natural Resources, this trail seeks to educate users and connect distant areas of the state for pedestrian use.

Variation:

**Autotour Route**

Essentially a long distance trail designed for vehicular travel, autotour routes allow users to experience the region in a much less strenuous manner. As with long distance trails, amenities are typically found in parks and towns along the route. Autotour routes may be either linear or circular in nature and are geared to providing scenic transportation near or through a particular resource, such as a river, lake, or historic area. Autotour routes are under the jurisdiction of the agency that maintains the roads, and are very low in cost as they follow existing transportation patterns.

CASE STUDY: The Great River Road. Though often little more than signage, this extensive route follows both banks of the Mississippi River from its source in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The road currently offers services only where towns can provide them, but local tourist offices have begun their own initiatives to interpret the history of these riverside communities.

**Service Points**

GOALS: Provision of support services to users of trails. Users of long distance trails, whether they be hikers, bikers, canoists, or motorists, have need of certain amenities to make their experience possible and more pleasurable. Service Points may include boat ramps, water fountains, campgrounds, waysides, and any number of other necessary amenities.

MANAGEMENT: Any public or private body. Service Points may be managed by anyone, from states to volunteer groups. The principal difference between a Service Point and a Park is that Service Points are specifically designed to support a particular trail, and are not otherwise associated with any public land.

TYPE: Constructed Element.

REGULATION: Strict. Service Points are used for the purpose for which they were intended, and encompass no more land than is necessary to accomplish that goal. Therefore, only specific uses are allowed and, usually, no others.

OWNERSHIP: Public or private. As with management, ownership of service points is very flexible. Private landowners may even allow boat ramps, camping, and trail access through conservation or recreation easements on their property. If a service point exists, is matters little who owns the land, as long as it is ensured that the service point will continue to exist.
Service Points (continued)

SIZE:
Small. Service Points take up only as much space as is required for the amenity they provide. Even campgrounds tend to be small in size and support a limited number of one-night users.

AMENITIES:
Varied. Some Service Points may offer several different services, while others may provide merely parking and signage. The amenities to be included in a service point must be well defined before it is constructed, as there will be little space for later additions.

COST:
Moderate. Cost depends on the type and amount of amenities present in the service point, but these amenities are generally constructed without much expense.

OPPORTUNITIES:
Education. A useful amenity to include at a service point, especially those along autotour routes, is a small educational center. As service points should be placed at appropriate resting places or scenic areas, educational kiosks and placards would be welcomed by trail users.
Appendix B: Hoosier Heritage Boundary

Note: where the boundary follows roads, the boundary shall follow the edge of the right-of-way that includes the road in the heritage area, except in the case of Indiana Route 3 and US Route 36, which are excluded.

Note: where the boundary follows floodways, the boundary shall follow the edge of the floodway that includes the entire floodway in the heritage area.

This is the description of the boundary for the Hoosier heritage Area beginning at the intersection of Indiana Route 3 and Delaware County Road 500S,

progressing westward along County Road 500S to a property line midway through Section 8,

progressing directly south along said property line to Delaware County Road 600S,

following said road westward to a property line midway through section 18,

progressing directly south along said property line to its intersection with the Williams Creek floodway near the center of Section 18,

following said floodway edge in a southeasterly direction to its intersection with the Delaware-Henry County Line,

following said county line westward to a property line midway through Section 26,

progressing directly south along said property line to Henry County Road 950N,

following said road east to its intersection with the Bell Creek floodway near the edge of Section 26,

following said floodway edge in a southeasterly direction to Henry County Road 650N near the edge of Section 12,

progressing east along said road to its intersection with the Little Buck Creek floodway near the center of Section 9,

following said floodway edge south, then north, then south again to its intersection with Henry County Road 650N near the western edge of Section 10,

progressing east along said road to Henry County Road 100E,

following said road south to US Route 36,
progressing east along said road to its intersection with Hillsboro Road,

following said road north to Henry County Road 550N,

progressing east along said road to Messick Road,

following Messick Road north to its intersection with the Summit Lake State Park Boundary,

following said boundary to its intersection with the boundary between T 18 N and T 19 N between Sections 4 of the former and 33 of the latter,

progressing west along said boundary to Rogersville Road,

following said road northeast to its intersection with the Buck Creek/????? drainage divide near the center of section 32,

progressing northwest along said drainage divide to Henry County Road 250E,

following said road north to County Line Road,

following said road west to Delaware County Road 200E,

progressing north along said road to Delaware County Road 700S,

progressing west along said road to Indiana Route 3, and

following said road north to the point of origin.
# Appendix C: Historic Sites

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![Stoney Creek Township Map](image)

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- Farm, Outbuildings, Italianate House
- Farm, Outbuildings, Italianate House
- Farm, Outbuildings, Gabled-ell House
- Farm, Outbuildings, Smokehouse
- Farm, Outbuildings, Basement Barn
- Farm, Outbuildings, Hall&Parlor House
- Farm, Outbuildings, Double-pen House
- Farm, Outbuildings, T-plan House
- Double-pile House
- Farm, Outbuildings, I-House
- Farm, Outbuildings, T-plan House
- Bethel German Baptist Cemetery
- I-House/Federal/Greek Revival House
- Farm, Outbuildings, Gable-Front House
- Farm, Outbuildings, T-plan House
Appendix D: Geologic Environments

Qt  Covering most of the flat land northwest of Springport and Cowan, this type of environment is the most abundant in East Central Indiana and describes land with very little variation which has been scoured and ground by glacial action.

Qte  Existing southwest of Springport and between the river valleys, this environment is evidence of the existence of a moraine and consists primarily of till, or finely-ground soil.

Qcl  Covering much of the valleys of Buck Creek and Little Buck Creek, this environment indicates lacustrine deposits rich in clay. It shows the existence of later hydrological scouring and lake-bottom geology.

Qgk  Found on isolated high points along the Little Buck Creek floodway, it indicates the presence of eskers or kanes, places where glacial action left behind a rise in the land consisting primarily of gravel and sand.

Qgm  Existing in the smaller valleys just north of the Glacial Blue River Valley, this environment consists of clay and silty gravel and shows the existence of alluvial deposits existing in narrow valleys. This environment is evidence of the internal glacial river that later created the Glacial Blue River Valley.

Qmp  Following the course of the Glacial Blue River Valley, it is evidence of marsh and lake type deposits, suggesting that this area, after being carved, was saturated most of the time and even may have supported temporary lakes. It consists of peat and muck and is rich in organic material. The presence of such a marshy environment is supported by pioneer accounts, which speak of wet meadows and waterfowl-supporting marshes in this area.

Appendix E: Soil Associations
(USDA SCS, Delaware and Henry Counties)

Flatland Soils
  good for agriculture
  good for hardwood forest

Delaware County: Crosby-Brookston-Miami
Henry County: Crosby-Cyclone-Miamian,
              Lostantville-Crosby-Miamian

This association is a mosaic of soils, with other minor soils existing in low spots and on isolated knobs. This association exists on uplands and is formed from glacial till. It is not very well drained and exists on flatlands or on gentler slopes. The soils are suited to agriculture, but certain areas are poorly drained. They also support hardwoods, especially in the wetter areas.

This association exists to the west of the Little Buck Creek Valley and on the uplands to the east of the Glacial Blue River Valley. It roughly corresponds to the Qt geologic environment. It is in fact intensively farmed and is pock-marked with pockets of forested wetlands.
River Slope/Glacial Outwash Soils
median for agriculture
good for hardwood forest

Delaware County: Miami-Fox-Martinsville
Henry County: Miamian-Lostantville
Eldean
This association exists on uplands and terraces near river valleys. It can be found on flat to steeply sloping areas associated with river valleys, and is generally well-drained. The soils are formed of glacial till and do support agriculture, but on steeper slopes are better used for pasture, or not used at all because of erosion problems associated with unvegetated soil. This association is also well suited for hardwoods. In some places, namely the Eldean association of Henry County, which is found in and around Luray, the soil is underlain by a sand and gravel base. These areas are typically used for extraction purposes.

These soils exist on the moderate slopes associated with the Buck Creek, Little Buck Creek, and Big Blue River Valleys. Effectively, this association is a transition between the previous one and the next.

Riverbed Soils
some organic content
good for agriculture
good for a variety of ecosystems

Delaware County: Brookston-Kokomo-Fox
Henry County: Westland-Millgrove-Marstico

This association occupies broad depressions, lakebeds, and river valleys. It has great variety in character ranging from the poorly drained, level Kokomo soils to the well drained, sloping Fox soils. In the landscape, this association forms the composition of a typical riverbed, with the wettest, muckiest soils in the river, and the more stable soils climbing the terrace. Wetness and coarseness of the soils may restrict agriculture and inhibit the growth of high quality hardwoods. In some areas, organic content is high, due to glacial outwash and palustrine deposits. This association is prone to flooding, and, therefore, supports wetness-tolerant hardwoods and herbaceous wetland vegetation.

This association exists in the floodways of Little Buck Creek, Buck Creek, and the Big Blue River. The terraces and flatlands adjacent to the creeks are farmed, but there is often scrub, hardwoods, and shrubs present adjacent to the creeks. These soils, along with some of the previous association, correspond with the Qel and Qgk geologic environments.
## Appendix F: Indicator Species of Native Ecosystems

### Oak Hickory Forest
- dry to mesic sites
- thick canopy with woody and herbaceous understory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pignut Hickory</td>
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<td>Shagbark Hickory</td>
<td>Carya ovata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern White Oak</td>
<td>Quercus alba</td>
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<td>Burr Oak</td>
<td>Quercus macrocarpa</td>
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<td>Northern Red Oak</td>
<td>Quercus rubra</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Beech</td>
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<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
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<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Basswood</td>
<td>Tilia americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Witchhazel</td>
<td>Hamamelis virginiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Hazelnut</td>
<td>Corylus americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sassafras</td>
<td>Sassafras albidum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Hop-hornbeam</td>
<td>Ostrya virginiana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Floodplain Forest
- wet, poorly drained sites
- thick canopy with woody and herbaceous understory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<td>Silver Maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharinum</td>
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<td>Green Ash</td>
<td>Fraxinus pennsylvica</td>
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<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>Platanus occidentalis</td>
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<td>Eastern Cottonwood</td>
<td>Populus deltoides</td>
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<td>Common Hackberry</td>
<td>Celtis occidentalis</td>
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<td>Swamp White Oak</td>
<td>Quercus bicolor</td>
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<td>Ohio Buckeye</td>
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<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slippery Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus rubra</td>
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<td>Crataegus spp.</td>
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<td>Northern Spicebush</td>
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<td>Common Pawpaw</td>
<td>Asimina triloba</td>
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<td>Cercis canadensis</td>
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<td>Virginia Creeper</td>
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<td>Sandbar Willow</td>
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<td>Virginia Bluebells</td>
<td>Mertensia virginica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sensitive Fern</td>
<td>Onoclea sensibilis</td>
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Shrub Swamp
transition between wetlands and hardwood forest
wet sites
may depend on fire or cutting

Dogwood
Arrowwood
Nannyberry
Willow
Black Chokeberry
Winterberry
Raspberry
Highbush Blueberry
Swamp Milkweed
Aster
Sedge
Broad-leaf Cattail

Cornus spp.
Viburnum dentatum
Viburnum lentago
Salix spp.
Aronia melanocarpa
Ilex verticillata
Rubus idaeus
Vaccinium corymbosum
Asclepias incarnata
Aster spp.
Carex spp.
Typha latifolia

Wet Meadow
wet, fertile soil
adjacent to lakes and rivers
may change in character as amount of water changes

Swamp Milkweed
Sedge
Spike-rush
Joe-Pye Weed
Rush
Freshwater Cordgrass
Purple Meadowrue
Saw-tooth Sunflower
Virginia Blueflag
Tall Pussywillow
Buhrush
Canadian Goldenrod

Asclepias incarnata
Carex spp.
Eleocharis spp.
Eupatorium maculatum
Juncus spp.
Spartina pectinata
Thalictrum dasycarpum
Helianthus grosseseratus
Iris virginica
Salix discolor
Scirpus spp.
Solidago canadensis
Appendix G: Long Distance Trails

Western Loop

The trail begins in Cowan.
It travels for a short distance along 600S before turning south to follow a hedgerow into Oakville.
At the intersection near Cowan, a spur trail along county roads connects to the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail.
From the Oakville trail access point, the trail drops into the Little Buck Creek Greenway and follows the valley to an access point near Springport.
Near Oakville, a portion of the eastern loop follows Little Buck Creek eastward into Luray to connect to the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail.
From Springport, a short walk south brings the trail to Salamander Swale. Here, the eastern loop, of which the Little Buck Creek Valley Trail is a part, heads through the swale to the east.
The western loop follows Hillside Creek to 100W.
From here, the trail winds through agricultural lands and woodlots before meeting up with Williams Creek.
At the intersection with 600N, a spur trail leads to Bell Creek Nature Preserve, where there is a trail access point, and connects to a rail-trail near Honey Creek.
The trail follows Williams Creek, crossing 200W, until it meets up with 700S.
Here, the trail follows that road a short distance, before winding through Monroe Township Nature Preserve to Cowan.

Eastern Loop

The trail begins in Luray.
It follows Little Buck Creek westward all the way to Salamander Swale, following the route of the western loop.
Also from Luray, the northern portion of the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail heads north to Muncie.
At Salamander Swale, the trail follows woodlots and property lines east, passes through the Fish and Wildlife Area, and arrives at a trail access point adjacent to Muncie Pike.
A short way along Muncie Pike to the south, the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail, which connects Muncie and New Castle, continues south along the Big Blue River.
At the junction of the trail with the Big Blue River, the eastern loop follows the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail east up the riverbed and into Summit Lake State Park, where it links into existing trail systems.
The eastern loop and the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail wind through forest and agricultural land within Summit Lake State Park, and later on the hillside above the Glacial Blue River Valley.
Later, the trail drops down into the valley to join the Cliff Ditch, and, later, Buck Creek.
It then follows Buck Creek into Luray, where the Buck Creek/Blue River Trail can be continued northward.

The Buck Creek/Blue River Trail

Essentially following the Glacial Blue River Valley, the trail begins in New Castle.
It passes into the site along the Big Blue River and meets up with the eastern loop at 650N.
The trail follows the eastern loop all the way to Luray, where it continues north along Buck Creek into Muncie.
Appendix H: Autotour Routes

Flatland Farms Autotour Route -- 16 miles

Begin in Cowan at the intersection of County Roads 600S and 50W.
Proceed south on County Road 50W, passing the outskirts of Oakville.
Cross the Delaware-Henry County Line.
Turn right at the next road, 950N.
Take the next road to the left, 100W.
Proceed for 1.5 miles, then turn right on 800N, entering the Agricultural Conservation Zone.
After 1 mile, turn left on 200W.
Pass the footpath crossing, then turn right on 650N.
Proceed 1 mile, then turn right on 300W, driving through the heart of the highest quality agriculture in the Hoosier Heritage Area.
Pass the Bell Creek Nature Preserve and trail access.
Turn right down a gravel road, 850N.
After again crossing the footpath, take the first left onto 200W.
Proceed for 3.5 miles, crossing Williams Creek and its trails, and passing by a trail access point and a portion of the Monroe Township Nature Preserve.
Turn right onto 600S and proceed into Cowan.

Prairie Valley Autotour Route -- 23 miles

Begin in the center of Luray, at the intersection of County Roads 100E and 950N.
Head west from Luray along 950N.
Cross Route 3, then take the next left onto Prairie Road.
Proceed for about 3 miles along Prairie Road, and turn left just after Salamander Swale onto 650N.
After again crossing Route 3, the road will turn several times, passing a cemetery, and finally showing a view of the Glacial Blue River Valley.
Turn left at the bottom of the hill onto 175E.
This road will pass the Fish and Wildlife Area and cross a footpath.
Turn right on the first road, and proceed through its turns to a four way intersection and trail access point.
Continue straight through the intersection, climb out of the valley, and proceed through a left and then a right, ducking in and out of Summit Lake State Park.
Take the first possible right onto 500E, passing through Summit lake State Park.
Again, take the first possible right onto 600N, approaching the entrance of Summit Lake State Park.
After experiencing the park, continue south along Messick Road and take the first right.
When this road ends, turn left and proceed to Route 36.
Follow Route 36 for a fraction of a mile, then turn right at the Route 103 intersection onto Muncie Pike.
Follow Muncie Pike through the entire length of the Glacial Blue River Valley, crossing the footpath, passing a trail access point, and experiencing the Buck Creek/Blue River Heritage Viewshed.
When Muncie Pike reaches a T intersection, turn right and cross Buck Creek and its trail.
Follow this road around to the left, cross Buck Creek again, and enter Luray at the point of departure.
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