

Annual Report



President's Report

Indiana Parks Alliance has a twofold mission, advocacy and fundraising. 2017 was another big year, as we experienced success and growth on both sides of our mission. Due in large part to the advocacy of IPA and its partner conservation organizations, the state legislature added \$3.9 million to the 2017-19 State Parks budget. Perhaps even more importantly, they labeled the line item "deferred maintenance." This is recognition that our message is getting through.



Boardwalk at Indiana Dunes State Park that is slated for replacement with "deferred maintenance" funds.



Lockable panels have arrived at Indiana Dunes and boardwalk replacement begins in Fall 2018. Design permits the boardwalk to be adjusted if water levels change.

Also during the year, IPA initiated its first major fundraising effort with the rolling out of the Save Our Ash Trees campaign. The goal of this campaign was to raise \$20,000 to enable treatment against emerald ash borer (EAB) of a minimum of 100 ash trees. These trees would be located on state parks and state owned nature preserves where the EAB had not already wiped out the ash trees. Without such treatments the ash trees would essentially become extinct from our public woodlands. By the end of

IPA 2017 Accomplishments

- Initiated the Save our Ash Trees Campaign, generating more than \$27,000 in funding for the first year of the program.
- Donated \$1000 to the Discovering the Outdoors Fund for school field trips to Indiana State Parks. Our gift is helped to support field trips for 25 different schools and more than 2400 students.
- Awarded \$5000 in small project grants to local DNR friends groups, including Friends of Harmonie State Park (Outdoor Education Shelter), Friends of Brown County State Park (leaf sculpture for nature center) and Friends of Limberlost/Loblolly Marsh (native plantings)
- Hosted a webinar entitled "The State of Indiana State Parks and State-Owned Nature Preserves," which was a conversation with IPA leaders about successes and needs of these unique sites .
- Continued advocacy for the funding for deferred maintenance for DNR properties through public hearing testimony and meetings with legislators and legislative staff. An additional \$4 million was added to DNR's capital & rehab budget due in part to this advocacy effort.
- Contributed \$1000 to create a new guide to state-owned dedicated nature preserves for the Division of Nature Preserves 50th Anniversary.
- Supported local friends groups with travel and meal funding to attend an annual networking workshop.
- Hosted the second annual IPA gathering for members and guests at McCormick's Creek State Park.
- Developed and publicized a "bucket list" of favorite state park and nature preserve sites/activities for Hoosiers to visit. The results are in the IPA Press Center at indianaparksalliance.org/press-center/.
- Promoted Indiana Nature Preserves and Indiana State Parks and IPA through participation at Earth Day Indiana, the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, the Indiana State Fair and the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Annual Conference.

2017 it was already becoming clear that we would meet, and actually exceed, our fundraising goal.

2017 was important for another reason. While 2016 was the centennial of the Indiana Parks system, 2017 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the system of nature preserves in Indiana. This was accomplished with the passage of the Nature Preserves Act in 1967, and the dedication of the first state nature

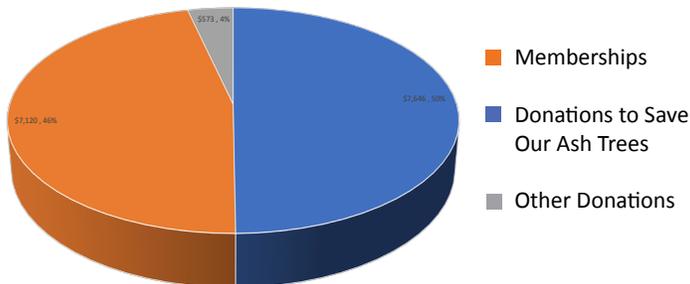
preserve two years later. Throughout the year IPA helped the Division of Nature Preserves celebrate this landmark event, in part by providing funds for a new guide to some of the state owned nature preserves.

We look forward to continuing our progress in 2018 toward becoming an effective voice for those who love and appreciate our state parks and nature preserves.

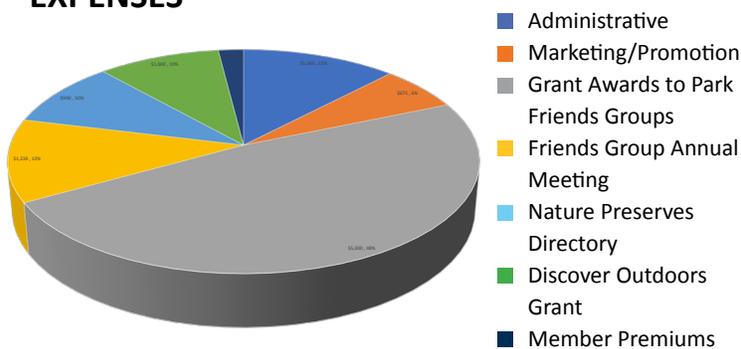
---Tom Hohman

IPA 2017 Financial Summary

INCOME



EXPENSES



Watch IPA in 2018.....

- Watch for the first treatment of ash trees in nature preserves and state parks, funded by IPA.
- Look for an award of up to \$5000 in small project grants to local DNR friends groups.
- Look for projects, position statements and suggestions for contacting your legislators on issues at indianaparksalliance.org/press-center/.

...And Get Involved!

- Join the Indiana Parks Alliance and help us build a strong financial foundation. If you are a state employee you can donate through the State Employee Capital Campaign (one time donation or payroll deduction.)
- Donate to the new "Save Our Ash Trees" Campaign at indianaparksalliance.org/save-our-ash-trees/.
- Use Goodshop(goodsearch.com/goodshop) or Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) to donate when you shop.
- Help us staff booths at festivals and events.
- Tell your legislators that state parks and nature preserves are important to you, and need more funding in the upcoming budget.
- Serve on a committee.
- Recruit new members or suggest potential donors.
- Follow IPA at [facebook.com/indianaparksalliance](https://www.facebook.com/indianaparksalliance) then like and share posts from the page.

Nature Preserves Celebrates 50 Years



Indiana's system of Nature Preserves was established by a 1967 act of the General Assembly. The Nature Preserve Act's purpose is to provide permanent protection for significant natural areas within the state. Nature preserves are actually living museums, natural resources which contain a record of Indiana's original natural character. Pine Hills Nature Preserve in Montgomery County was the first preserve, dedicated in 1969.

Indiana's dedicated nature preserves include at least one example of almost every type of the 61 natural communities found in Indiana at the time of its settlement. Some of these natural community types include old-growth forests (Shrader-Weaver Nature Preserve), geologic features (Portland Arch NP), sand savannas (Hoosier Prairie NP), dunes (Dunes Nature Preserve), prairies (Smith Cemetery NP), and lakes (Olin Lake NP). The system also protects large landscapes such as the glacial moraine complex at Moraine NP, kettle lakes (at Spicer Lake NP), karst features (at Mitchell Sinkhole Plain), and many others.

The Division of Nature Preserves marked the 50th Anniversary of this important legislation with production of a new state-owned nature preserves directory funded by the Indiana Parks Alliance, ecologist-led hikes in preserves around the state, participation in Indiana State Parks' Annual Fitness Challenge where hikers aimed for a goal of 50 miles hiked in state dedicated nature preserves, and the dedication of eight new preserves that brought the total number statewide to 282.

IPA Board Members

Thanks to these leaders for their service to Indiana State Parks and Indiana's State-Owned Dedicated Nature Preserves through the Indiana Parks Alliance. Learn about them at indianaparksalliance.org.

Tom Hohman <i>President</i> Plainfield	Phil Bloom Fort Wayne	Troy McCormick Jeffersonville
Mark Young <i>Vice-President</i> Louisville	Tom Burkhart Shelburn	Jerry Pagac Bloomington
John Goss <i>Secretary</i> Indianapolis	Justin Coleman Zionsville	Teresa Rhodes Indianapolis
Sonok Deutscher <i>Treasurer</i> Avon	Tonya Figg Bloomington	John Schaut Indianapolis
John Bergman Fishers	Dan Henkel Indianapolis	Jeff Seidenstein Indianapolis
	John Lester Greenwood	Mike Wells Indianapolis
		Steve Wolter Bloomington