



THE WONDER WOMEN OF THE DUNES

project was funded by the National Park Foundation and is an effort to increase visibility of women's stories and impacts around Duneland. Check out these other publications in the series found in the national park's Douglas or Visitor Centers:

■ SURVIVORS

- Marie Bailly
- Harriet A. Colfax
- Drusilla B. Carr
- Alice M. Gray

■ BOTANISTS

- Lois F. Howes
- Barbara Wykes-Plampin
- Irene Herlocker-Meyer

■ NATURALISTS

- Emma "Bickie" Pitcher
- Leila "Lee" Botts
- Flora S. Richardson

Indiana Dunes National Park

For more detailed stories and biographies, please visit [NPS.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/WonderWomen.htm](https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/WonderWomen.htm)



WOMEN OF THE DUNES



ACTIVISTS

The following stories represent and celebrate the women of Duneland who fought tirelessly to establish, protect, and maintain our Indiana Dunes National and State Parks.



CHARLOTTE J. READ

March 27, 1929 - May 2, 2019

"Crusader of the Dunes"

Both gracious and positive, as well as incisive and fierce, Charlotte Read was a reverent guardian of public trust, who wholeheartedly committed herself to saving the Indiana Dunes from trickling to cascading threats. Always equipped with the facts and intensely credible, she joined her husband in establishing a national park in the Dunes in 1966 and continued a courageously dedicated life in environmental activism and education for over six decades.





BESS V. SHEEHAN

April 16, 1882 - April 24, 1968

“Lady of the Dunes”

Bess Sheehan, an early staunch advocate of the first “Save the Dunes” movement of the 1910s, was a prominent, proactive clubwoman who felt a moral duty and responsibility to transform society. She pivoted conservation pressure to the state, rallied women’s clubs, and led the critically urgent campaign to the successful protection of Indiana’s Duneland as a state park; decades later she aided the second preservation push that established Indiana Dunes National (Lakeshore) Park.



DOROTHY R. BUELL

December 1, 1886 - May 17, 1977

“Heroine of the Dunes”

Inspired by women’s success to conserve a state park and motivated by looming industrialization, the dignified Dorothy Buell rallied public support and was instrumental in the battle to establish a national park in the Indiana Dunes. With her enthusiasm, wit, and tireless energy, she established and directed the Save the Dunes Council where she courageously led citizens insistent on stopping the despoiling of remaining unprotected habitat in Duneland.



SYLVIA C. TROY

November 4, 1921 - June 25, 2020

“Defender of the Dunes”

Shy before her involvement in saving the Indiana Dunes, nature-lover Sylvia Troy metamorphosed into an indomitable defender- wielding newly learned strength and assertiveness on behalf of a cause. She was a resounding voice in securing the park’s first expansion bill, and for nearly a decade she vehemently protected the Dunes from further development and a barrage of threats while leading the Save the Dunes Council at a critical time in the park’s infancy.

