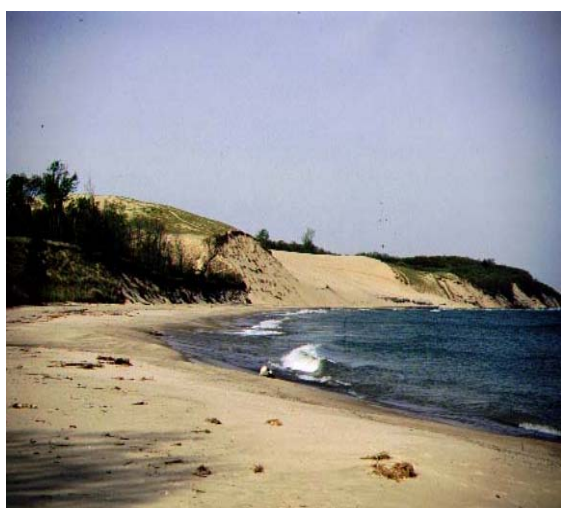




Dorothy R. Buell **1886 - 1977** **Passion for the Dunes**

“We are prepared to spend the rest of our lives if necessary to save the dunes.” Dorothy R. Buell



Starting at age 65, Dorothy Buell fought for fourteen arduous years under this famous quote. As a child she spent summers in what is now Ogden Dunes. She grew to feel that the dunes were meant for all people.

Dorothy Buell was a woman whose enthusiasm, determination, and fearlessness were directed toward a single goal: saving the Indiana Dunes. Her dedication is one of the main factors that lead to the creation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Saving a Dune



Dorothy Buell admires one of her many awards.

To fulfill the goal of dunes for all people, she worked persistently to protect the land from bulldozers, sought volunteers to work by her side, and traveled hundreds of miles to raise funds and public opinion for the Indiana Dunes. She took on the arduous task of tutoring a nation neglecting their heritage and molded pioneers to fulfill the dreams of conservation. Famous advocates such as Mr. Strong, president of the Chicago Conservation Council, Donald Culross Peattie, noted natural history author, and Illinois Senator Paul Douglas worked, walked, and fought alongside Mrs. Buell in the years of the crusade.

Mrs. Buell's ability to enlist the help of others and her refusal to accept “no” for an answer started the momentum that brought about our Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. At the age of 68, she was named leading newsworthy woman in Indiana. Because of her efforts to save this unique habitat, she received awards and recognition throughout her life. Mrs. Buell, known for her sense of humor, once remarked that she hadn't known what she was getting into and didn't know how to quit!

The Save the Dunes Council



*Volunteers for the Save the Dunes Conservation Fund participate in a restoration project at Marquette Park. Photo by Tom Anderson
Photo courtesy of the Save the Dunes Council*

In 1952, Dorothy founded the Save the Dunes Council for the purpose of obtaining dunes land and giving it to the Indiana Dunes State Park. Over the years, this original plan had to be modified to fit modern circumstances and demands. Through the years, the Save the Dunes Council has worked to preserve the Indiana Dunes for public use and enjoyment. The Council is still actively working on dune projects. For more information on the Save the Dunes Council please call (219) 879-3937 or check their web page address: www.savedunes.org.

Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center



NPS Photo by Rachel Smith

Dorothy Buell retired to California in late 1968. In 1977, she died at the age of 90. Mrs. Buell lived to see the 1966 establishment of the park she had worked so hard to create. In 1992, Congress commemorated Mrs. Buell's vision, dedication, and work by directing that the national lakeshore's visitor center be forever dedicated in her name as the "Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center."
