

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2009

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SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST TO HOST FREE COMMUNITY HIKE AT GREEN HERON POND IN MILLER

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its annual community hike at Green Heron Pond this Saturday, July 25, 2009. Free guided tours will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Complimentary refreshments will be available after the tours conclude.

Green Heron Pond is a 12 acre wetland located in the Miller neighborhood of Gary. This diverse site features a range of habitats from interdunal wetland to high dune. Black oak savanna and woodland grades into mesic oak forest, providing habitat for Wild Columbine, Puccoon, Bloodroot and Trilliums. The dominant wetland feature is a permanent pond which supports a variety of wildlife including fish, frogs, turtles, muskrats, waterfowl and songbirds. Smaller, seasonal ponds also occur at this site.

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has preserved, protected and restored natural lands in the southern Lake Michigan watershed since 1981. It has preserved over 1,000 acres, representing a great variety of landscapes and natural communities: tallgrass prairie and oak savanna, interdunal ponds and woodlands, boreal flatwoods and dune-and-swale, and numerous types of wetlands. Five of the properties it owns and manages are dedicated Indiana State Nature Preserves.

If you have additional questions, please contact Shirley Heinze Land Trust at 219-879-4725. To learn more about Shirley Heinze Land Trust properties in LaPorte, Porter and Lake Counties, please visit our website at www.heinzetrust.org, contact us at (219) 879-4725 or e-mail land@heinzetrust.org

Directions

From US 20 or US 12 in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, take Lake Street north about 1 mile, past the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education (the Douglas Center). Turn right onto Hemlock Avenue, which is the first stop light after the Douglas Center. Go two blocks (East) and park along the road adjacent to the west side of Marquette Elementary School. Individuals will meet at Lee Botts house (first house west of Marquette School) located at 6235 Hemlock in Miller.

END