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For Immediate Release



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URGENT CONSERVATION ALERT

Save the South Bend Speedway Oak Savanna from Destruction

St. Joseph County, IN — One of Indiana’s rarest ecosystems is facing an imminent threat of being destroyed to build an auto salvage yard, and we’re asking all conservation-minded individuals and organizations to join us to oppose the rezoning required for this project to move forward.

The South Bend Motor Speedway, located near the intersection of Peach Road and State Road 2, approximately two miles west of South Bend, contains about 34 acres of undeveloped, globally rare black oak savanna habitat. Insurance Auto Auction Inc. has entered into a purchase agreement with the owners of the speedway contingent on rezoning. The buyers are petitioning the county to a. rezone 34 acres of land from single-family residential to commercial use. b. designate the entirety of the property as a special-use “auto wrecking yard.” c. requesting a variance to construct a six-foot tall fence around the property.

Indiana Nature LLC joins other conservation partners in staunchly opposing this project as it will destroy perhaps the county’s last remaining sizeable black oak savanna habitat. The property is home to numerous high-conservation value native plants and a breeding ground for many species of birds, including Osprey, an Indiana Species of Special Concern.

The St. Joseph County Area Planning Commission is slated to have these matters appear in a public meeting on September 17. The rezoning requests will likely come to the full County Council on September 24.

WE ARE ASKING INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONS TO DO THE FOLLOWING

- Attend both meetings (preferably in person) and speak against the rezoning, special use permit, and variance petitions.
- Call or email your County Council member or email the entire St. Joseph County Council at cocouncil@sjcindiana.com and urge them to vote no to these requests.
- Stay abreast of the situation by following our social media, or use the QR code on this page to visit our webpage for more information, including photographs, maps and official documents.

