



# Healthy Rivers Initiative

Commemorating 2 Years

# Land Conservation for FUTURE GENERATIONS

The **Healthy Rivers Initiative** is the largest land conservation initiative to be undertaken in Indiana. The initiative includes a partnership of resource agencies and organizations who will work with willing landowners to permanently protect over 43,000 acres located in the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek and over 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Quality of Life

- provide **public access** to recreational opportunities
- increase physical activity
- provide scenic views & waterways to **encourage active visitation**

### Economy and Community Development

- connect communities
- **increase tourism**

### Wildlife

- provide necessary habitat
- **help ensure** species have a strong foothold in Indiana.
- **predicted** to change the migratory patterns of waterfowl in the Midwest.

### Environment

- **reduce** pollution from entering the river
- increase DNR-owned riparian wetlands by **64%**.
- **improve water quality**
- prevent flooding downstream



[healthyrivers.IN.gov](http://healthyrivers.IN.gov)

## Wabash Project Area

Total acres acquired by DNR: 6,057  
 Acres enrolled in **Wetlands Reserve Program**: 3,198  
 Existing State-owned acres: 12,723

Total acres permanently protected: **21,978**

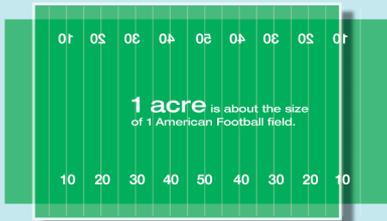
## Muscatatuck Project Area

Total acres acquired: 2,504  
 Acres enrolled in **Wetlands Reserve Program**: 2,521  
 Existing State-owned acres: 2,489

Total acres permanently protected: **7,514**

**29,492**  
acres permanently protected

About 4  
Goose Pond FWA  
properties



### Success Story

**Elanco-Clinton Labs Demonstration Site:** In April 2011, DNR and Eli Lilly's Elanco manufacturing facility in Clinton protected 308 acres through a conservation easement. The site shows how wildlife habitat can be created to buffer the river and allow farming to continue on land prone to flooding. The site shows how you can bridge farming, conservation and public access. It features:

- 46.2 acres of native grass plantings
- 30.5 acres of restored wetlands (*Construction began October 2011*)
- 28.2 acres of tree plantings (*14,000 trees planted in July 2011*)
- 3.8 acres of research area plantings
- 2.7 miles of trails
- 121.5 acres farmed

An acre of wetland can store 1-1.5 million gallons of floodwater.

(Source: Environmental Protection Agency)



Within the HRI project areas, we have:

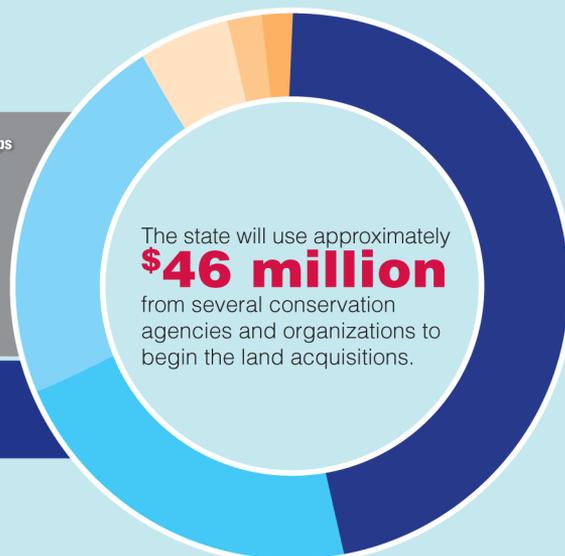
**Wabash River Project Area:** 6,284 acres enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program, providing up to 9,426 million gallons of floodwater storage potential



**Muscatatuck River Project Area:** 3,811 acres enrolled in Wetlands Reserve Program, providing up to 5,717 million gallons of floodwater storage potential



\$21.5 million	Lifetime License Trust Fund and Game Bird Habitat Stamps
\$10 million	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
\$10 million	Natural Resources Conservation Service
\$2.5 million	The Nature Conservancy
\$1 million	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
\$700,000	Indiana Heritage Trust



Through the leadership of **Governor Mitch Daniels**, the DNR and the following partners are working together to ensure the protection of our natural resources for the benefit of Indiana citizens through the **Healthy Rivers Initiative**.

