

FINANCIAL RESOURCES



Technical assistance for “whole property management” should be available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Department of Natural Resources Private lands program. Some of the following may be available but are dependent on federal funding, changes in the federal farm bill and other factors. Because these programs change over time, check with the sponsoring agencies for changes or new programs.

Conservation Easements and Land Retirement Programs:

A conservation easement is an agreement by which a landowner voluntarily restricts specified land use rights in partnership with a qualifying nonprofit organization or government agency that will monitor and protect the land’s natural resources. Under certain conditions, donors may be eligible for tax benefits, or they may be paid outright for the loss of land use.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Floodplain Easements Program – U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, FSA and U.S. Forest Service

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Conservation Security Program (CSP) – USDA, NRCS

Debt for Nature – U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSA

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
– USDA, NRCS.

Farmland Protection Program (FPP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS or FSA

Forest Legacy Program – In Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (other states should contact their state conservation agency)

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

Purchase of Development Rights or Transfer of Development Rights

Check with the county zoning authority to see whether such programs exist in your county.

Cost-Share Programs

These programs reimburse landowners for part of the expenses they incur for conservation practices.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS or FSA

Floodplain Easement Program (FEP) – USDA, NRCS

Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) – US Forest Service, state forestry agencies

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may offer cost-share funds. Contact the local USFWS office.

Your state, through the Department of Natural Resources, may have habitat incentive programs like this Iowa example: **Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)** – Habitat protection, restoration, enhancement and management for federal/state species at risk. Private Lands Program, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources.

Your state or local land trust (usually private, nonprofit organizations) may also offer funding assistance or advice. To find the land trust nearest you, visit www.lta.org or see the list on page 38.

Other private nonprofit organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited or Pheasants Forever, may have funds for habitat programs.



ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Iowa Resources

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Wildlife, Wildlife Diversity Program. 1436 255th Street, Boone, Iowa 50036-7557. Wildlife Diversity biologists and technicians. Expertise covering bird, mammal, reptile and other non-hunted animals. Phone: (515) 432-2823; <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/divers.html>

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. District Foresters and other staff. All aspects of woodland management, including tree planting, insect and disease problems and woodland wildlife management. Phone: (515) 242-5966; <http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/>

Iowa Native Plant Society. A nonprofit organization that promotes conservation of, ethical use of, and education about Iowa's native plants. <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inpshome.htm>

Iowa Prairie Network. A grassroots nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Iowa's prairie heritage. <http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org>

Iowa State University, Cooperative Extension Service. Ames, Iowa. Forestry, Entomology, Horticulture, Pathology, and Wildlife faculty extension specialists. Also, county offices listed under the "Government-County" section of local telephone directory: publications, offices and staff in every Iowa county. www.extension.iastate.edu

Iowa's County Conservation Boards. The boards serve as a primary natural resource management agency and environmental education center in their respective counties. Environmental education, natural resources management. Listed in local telephone directories under county government offices or <http://george.ecity.net/iaccb/>

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St. Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Provides assistance and support to soil and water conservation districts; distributes cost-share funds for a variety of forestry practices. <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/default.htm>

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Ste. 693, Des Moines, IA 50309-4260. Provides technical assistance and information about soil and water conservation including riparian

forest buffers and tree planting. Offers financial assistance through USDA programs including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), Rural Development through Forestry (RDTF), Watershed Programs, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Individual state websites may include listings of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) offices.

Iowa Audubon. This nonprofit is an organization of Audubon members, other people, corporations, and other organizations, including National Audubon Society chapters, all interested in improving bird habitat in Iowa. <http://www.iowaaudubon.org/main/default.asp>

Iowa Ornithologists' Union. A nonprofit membership organization that promotes the study and enjoyment of birds; website contains information about publications, birdwatching sites, annual meetings and more. <http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/iou.asp>

Iowa State University NatureMapping Iowa. A citizen science program to "keep common species common." <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/naturemapping> lists most common Iowa birds with link to the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Identification InfoCenter site, which has species identification tips and photos. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/infocenter.html>

Prairie's Edge Sustainable Woods Cooperative (PESWC). Forest management, processing and marketing cooperative of northeast Iowa woodland owners. Contact Scot Christianson 34782 Littleport Rd., Edgewood, IA 52042, or Northeast Iowa RC&D, PO Box 916, Postville, IA, 52162-0916

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Established as part of the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act of 1987. Iowa State University, 209 Curtiss Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1050. <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu>

Regional resources

Check similar organizations as listed for Iowa.

Audubon Upper Mississippi River Campaign. Serving Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. 2357 Ventura Dr., Ste 106; Woodbury, MN 55125. Phone: (651) 225-1830 <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/umr>

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Springfield, <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>

Regional resources (cont).

Illinois Audubon. 425B North Gilbert Street Danville, IL 61832 <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org/> Phone: (217) 446-5085

Illinois Ornithological Society. P.O. Box 931 Lake Forest, IL 60045 <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/>

Land Stewardship Project. <http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/nongame/index.html

Minnesota Interagency Information Cooperative. Forest resource data for Minnesota. <http://www.iic.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. <http://moumn.org/>

Minnesota Audubon. 2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55125 Phone: (651) 739-9332; <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn>

Natural Resources Research Institute, Forest Birds of Minnesota. <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/mnbirds/default.htm>

The Prairie Enthusiasts. www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

The Raptor Resource Project. Peregrine Falcon, Swallow-tail Kite, and Mississippi River recovery programs. PO Box 152, Canton, MN 55922. <http://www.raptorresource.org/>

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). Site includes the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, which contains species location maps, visual and audio library of birds, species descriptions, and more, under the research link. <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso/>

Audubon Wisconsin. <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/wi/>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources, nongame website. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/biodiversity.htm>

Nationwide general resources

American Bird Conservancy. P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198. www.abcbirds.org

American Farmland Trust, Upper Midwest Office. In partnership with farmers, local governments, planners and citizens, AFT's Upper Midwest Regional Planning Office protects farmland, advocates for protective policies and promotes economically and ecologically sound agriculture. Phone: 1-800-370-4879; http://www.farmland.org/upper_midwest/index.htm

American Heritage Rivers Initiative. A U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency program that offers financial and informational assistance to communities addressing watershed problems. www.epa.gov/rivers/

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. A membership institute dedicated to the study, appreciation and conservation of birds, research, public education and citizen science. Attn: Communications, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-1999. Phone: 1-800-843-2473; <http://birds.cornell.edu>

Forest Stewardship Council U.S. A forest certification system that promotes and rewards responsible forest management. 1155 30th St., NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20007. Phone: (202) 342-0413; www.fscus.org

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Conserves populations of plants and animals by awarding challenge grants to projects benefiting conservation education, habitat protection and restoration and natural resource management. <http://www.nfwf.org/>

National Wildlife Federation. A nonprofit conservation organization; offers website that includes illustrations, information and audio on more than 800 bird species. www.eNature.com/guides/select_birds.asp

Partners in Flight. The central premise of PIF has been that the resources of public and private organizations in North and South America must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to achieve success in conserving bird populations in this hemisphere. <http://www.partnersinflight.org>

USDA Forest Service. Landowner Assistance Programs. Helping private landowners protect, improve, restore, and sustain private forests. <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/index.shtml>

U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey. North American Breeding Bird Survey results and analysis, 1966 to 2004. www.mp2-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/

USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Includes biological resources, publications database, fact sheets, and more. <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/info/info.htm>

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. How to identify birds information, quizzes, bird lists, national survey information, and research. <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center. Monitoring data, maps and information about the Upper Mississippi River floodplain and reports of wildlife research projects. 2630 Fanta Reed Rd. LaCrosse, WI 54603, 608-783-6451. <http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Landowner tools, including incentive programs and grants for landowners. <http://endangered.fws.gov/>

Working Landscapes. <http://www.workinglandscapes.org>

Blufflands Alliance Partners

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

126 N. Main St., PO Box 216
Elizabeth, IL 61028-0126
Phone: (815) 858-9100
Fax: (815) 858-9102
E-mail: info@jdcf.org
Web: <http://www.jdcf.org>

Minnesota Land Trust

2356 University Ave. W., Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 647-9590
Fax: (651) 647-9769
E-mail: mnland@mnland.org
Web: <http://www.mnland.org>

Mississippi Valley Conservancy

PO Box 2611
LaCrosse, WI 54602-2611
Phone: (608) 784-3606
Fax: (608) 784-0257
E-mail: info@mississippivalleyconservancy.org
Web: <http://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org>

Natural Land Institute

320 South Third Street
Rockford, IL 61104
Phone: (815) 964-6666
Fax: (815) 964-6661
E-mail: nli@aol.com
Web: <http://www.naturalland.com>

West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc.

500 East Main, Suite 307
Menomonie, WI 54751
Phone: (715) 235-8850
Fax: (715) 235-8910
E-mail: wwlt@wwlt.org
Web: <http://www.wwlt.org>

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444
Des Moines, IA 50309-2321
Phone: (515) 288-1846
Fax: (515) 288-0137
E-mail: info@inhf.org
Web: <http://www.inhf.org>

Other Land Trust Organizations

Land Trust Alliance

1331 H Street NW, Suite 400
Washington DC 20005-4734
Phone: (202) 638-4725
Fax: (202) 638-4730
Web: <http://www.lta.org/> (has a state-by-state list of land trusts)

The Nature Conservancy, Worldwide Office

4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203-1606
Phone: (703) 841-5300
Web: <http://www.nature.org/>

TNC Iowa Field Office

303 Locust Street Suite 402
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 244-5044
Email: iowa@tnc.org
Web: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/iowa/>

TNC Minnesota Field Office

1101 West River Parkway Suite 200
Minneapolis MN 55415-1291
Phone: (612) 331-0750
Email: minnesota@tnc.org
Web: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/minnesota/>

TNC Wisconsin Field Office

633 West Main Street
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 251-8140
Web: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/wisconsin/>

TNC Nachusa Grasslands, Illinois

8772 S. Lowden Road
Franklin Grove, Illinois 61031
Phone: (815) 456-2340
Web: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/illinois/>