



This project area spans more than 26,000 acres along the Muscatatuck River, stretching across Scott, Jackson and Washington counties. It protects habitat for wildlife and provides recreational opportunities.

The Healthy Rivers Initiative, the largest land conservation initiative to be undertaken in Indiana, was announced in June 2010. It includes a partnership of resource agencies and organizations who are working with willing landowners to permanently protect more than 43,000 acres along the Wabash River and Sugar Creek in west-central Indiana, and more than 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands in southeast Indiana.

Eight key objectives have been identified for HRI:

- Provide a model that balances forests, farmed lands and natural resources conservation.
- Connect separated parcels of public land to benefit wildlife.
- Restore and enhance areas of land along the Wabash River, Muscatatuck River and Sugar Creek.
- Protect important habitat for wildlife.
- Open land to the public for recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, canoeing, bird-watching and boating.
- Protect important rest areas for migratory birds.
- Establish areas for nature tourism.
- Provide clean water and protection from flooding to landowners downstream.

The Muscatatuck River project area spans more than 26,000 acres along the Muscatatuck River. It is bounded by the intersection of the Muscatatuck

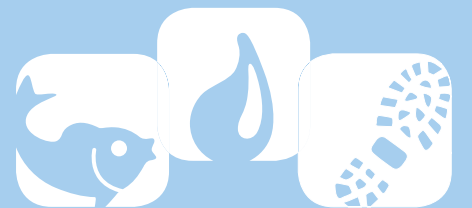
## HISTORY



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## DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

# AUSTIN BOTTOMS CONSERVATION AREA



## Healthy Rivers Initiative

Managed by Crosley FWA and Jackson-Washington State Forest | 812-346-5596 | dnr.IN.gov

## CAMPING/CAMPFIRES/SWIMMING

Target shooting is prohibited. Camping, campfires and swimming are prohibited.

## TARGET SHOOTING

Traffic on public roads throughout the area is governed by state and county laws. No motorized vehicles, horses or bicycles are permitted beyond county roads. Traffic over service roads and trails, except by authorized vehicles, is restricted to walking. Parking is in designated lots only.

## TRAFFIC

Watch for the property boundary and safety zone signs. Stay inside boundaries. Do not trespass on private property. Please be courteous to neighboring landowners.

## TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Collecting permits are required for the collection of anything except nuts, berries and mushrooms. A hunting and/or fishing license is required to hunt or fish on the property.

## PERMITS

The DNR will not be held responsible for any accidents or deaths occurring from the use of these facilities.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Violation of any law, rule or regulation governing this property may be cause for forfeiting your hunting, fishing or visiting privileges on this area.

## VIOLATIONS

Safety zones, refuges, waterfowl resting areas and other restricted areas are marked with appropriate signs.

## POSTED AREAS

In addition to state and wildlife laws, this property is governed by posted regulations affecting the public use of lands and facilities owned, leased or licensed by the DNR.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

and flows westward to Jackson-Washington State Forest on the west side. The project area stretches across three counties: Scott, Jackson and Washington.

## HEALTHY RIVERS INITIATIVE CONSERVATION AREAS



1. AUSTIN BOTTOMS
2. SUGAR CREEK
3. WABASH RIVER

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Funding for HRI land acquisition comes from several conservation agencies and organizations. These include: the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife-Lifetime License Trust Fund and Game Bird Habitat Stamps\*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Wildlife Restoration & Sport Fish Program\*, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The

## FUNDING FOR HEALTHY RIVERS INITIATIVE

Crosley Fish & Wildlife Area offers 4,228 acres of rolling hills and ponds for hunting and fishing. It is located south of North Vernon on S.R. 3.

## NEIGHBORING LAND

The Muscatatuck River bottoms is a great place to view a wide variety of birds and waterfowl. River gathering berries, nuts, and mushrooms is allowed; however, spring mushroom hunting is restricted to after 1 p.m. daily during the spring turkey season.

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Muscatatuck River bottoms is a great place to view a wide variety of birds and waterfowl. River gathering berries, nuts, and mushrooms is allowed; however, spring mushroom hunting is restricted to after 1 p.m. daily during the spring turkey season.

## WILDLIFE WATCHING

Call Crosley FWA (812) 346-5596 for regulations.

## TRAPPING

The area is mainly bottomland hardwoods interspersed with wetlands. Hunting is available for deer, turkey, squirrel and waterfowl. Furbearers are also abundant throughout the area. Limited opportunities are available for rabbit, quail and woodcock.

## HUNTING

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## FISHING

Nature Conservancy, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Indiana Heritage Trust, and the revenue from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

\*This fund contains revenue from the sale of lifetime fishing, hunting and trapping licenses, which the DNR stopped selling in 2005. The Game Bird Habitat Stamp includes revenue from the sale of Game Bird Habitat Stamps, which is required to hunt game birds in Indiana.

\*\*This program is administered by the USFWS. Funds come from excise taxes paid to the federal government, by manufacturers of sporting arms and ammunition, fishing equipment and motor boat fuel. These user-based funds are returned to Indiana according to a formula based on licensed hunters and anglers, then used to manage fish and wildlife resources. By buying a hunting or fishing license in Indiana, you contribute to fish and wildlife conservation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITE: DNR Healthy Rivers Initiative  
402 W. Washington Street, W273  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

CALL: 317-232-4200

ONLINE: [HealthyRivers.IN.gov](http://HealthyRivers.IN.gov)



Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

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

ONLINE HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING LICENSES

**DNR** Indiana Department of Natural Resources