Healthy Rivers Initiative Conservation Areas

1. Austin Bottoms
2. Sugar Creek
3. Wabash River

The Healthy Rivers Initiative, the largest land conservation initiative to be undertaken in Indiana, 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:

- 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.
- Protect significant wetlands and water bodies.
- Provide a model for wildlife and rural conservation.
- Provide opportunities for water-related recreation such as fishing, boating and water-skiing.


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, 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 St, W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
CALL: 317-232-4200
ONLINE: HealthyRivers.IN.gov