

Interested farmers/landowners may get more information and apply by visiting NRCS at their local USDA Service Center (listed by county, from the north to south).

USDA Service Centers

- **Warren:** Ben Lambeck; 765-762-2443, ext. 3
- **Fountain:** Andrew Brown; 765-762-6844, ext. 3
- **Vermillion/Parke:** Don Donovan; 765-569-3551, ext. 3
- **Vigo:** Eddy Adams; 812-232-0193, ext. 3
- **Sullivan:** Travis Walters; 812-268-5157, ext. 3
- **Knox:** Tom Held; 812-882-8210, ext. 3
- **Gibson:** Travis Gogel; 812-385-5033, ext. 3
- **Posey:** Bill Norfleet; 812-838-4191, ext. 3



The Wabash River as seen from Vermillion County, Indiana.

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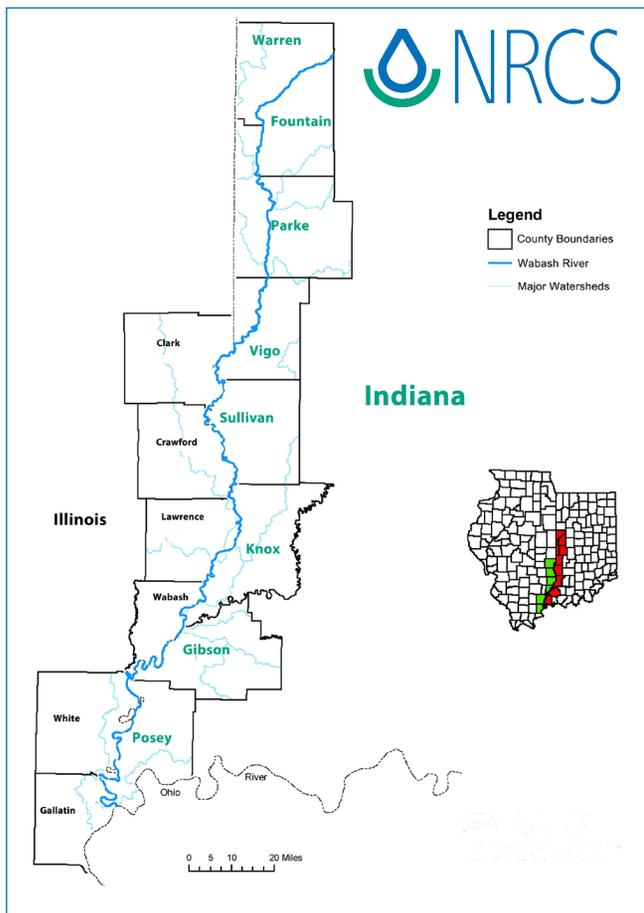
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278-2933



Wabash River Corridor

Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program

Indiana's Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program



The Indiana USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a partner with The Nature Conservancy on the Wabash River Floodplain Corridor Project.

The USDA NRCS provides funding through the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) for farmers along the Wabash River in nine Indiana counties over five years.

The nine Indiana counties include Posey, Gibson, Knox, Sullivan, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Fountain and Warren. Farmers in those counties, who have land in the Wabash River floodplain and meet Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) requirements, are eligible for participation.

There has been extensive flood damage to farmland along this Wabash Valley Corridor. There are fields along the river where flooding has happened repeatedly. Some of these farmland acres have been damaged badly enough to affect crop production. Farmers may ask themselves if it is still feasible to continue to farm those fields. This is where the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program can become a valuable resource for farmers and landowners to consider.

WREP, a component of the Wetlands Reserve

Program, leverages assistance from NRCS' partners to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible landowners to protect, restore and enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat. Wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Wetlands also improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

Eligibility for the Wabash Corridor WREP Project is the same as for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

Under the WRP, land qualifies if it would have been considered a wetland area before it was converted to agricultural production.

NRCS buys easements on lands to remove them from production agriculture. Once the easements are in place, NRCS may do some restoration work to put the land back into floodplain use or wetland conditions. Restoration work, for which NRCS pays up to 100 percent, helps temporarily retain floodwaters in floodplains

and associated areas, restore water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. For the WREP project, The Nature Conservancy is also assisting with restoring costs.

Easement compensation is based on a cap set for each county, and the land is valued either as cropland or non-cropland.

| Indiana WREP Land Easement Values Per Acre | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| County | Crop | Non-crop |
| Warren | \$3,627 | \$2,176 |
| Fountain | 3,287 | \$1,972 |
| Vermillion | \$3,398 | \$2,039 |
| Parke | \$3,042 | \$1,825 |
| Vigo | \$2,945 | \$1,767 |
| Sullivan | \$2,686 | \$1,612 |
| Knox | \$2,933 | \$1,760 |
| Gibson | \$3,000 | \$1,800 |
| Posey | \$3,019 | \$1,811 |