

# Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund



## It's our responsibility. It's our time. It's our legacy.

Iowa's legacy depends on clean water, productive agricultural soils, and thriving wildlife habitats so all Iowans can enjoy the splendor of our state.

Iowa's Water and Land Legacy is bringing Iowans together in support of immediate, permanent, reliable, substantial funding aimed at improving our water quality, protecting our soil, enhancing our wildlife habitat, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Iowa.

## Fund the Trust.

In 2010, 63% of Iowans voted for a constitutional amendment to create the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, a permanent and protected funding source dedicated to clean water, productive agricultural soils and thriving wildlife habitats.




Six years later the Trust Fund sits empty because it requires a sales tax increase of  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a cent for funding. **Iowa's Water and Land Legacy supports raising the sales tax to fund the Trust Fund and maintaining the formula supported by 63% of Iowa voters.**

Our broad-based coalition ranging from business leaders and farmers to conservationists and sportspersons believe cleaning our water, protecting our soil and enhancing our habitat will strengthen our economy and improve our quality of life.

**We urge Iowa's political leaders to include a sales tax increase of at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a cent in any legislative solution aimed at addressing water quality and conservation moving forward.**

Learn more about the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy coalition at [www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org](http://www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org)



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# FUND ALLOCATION

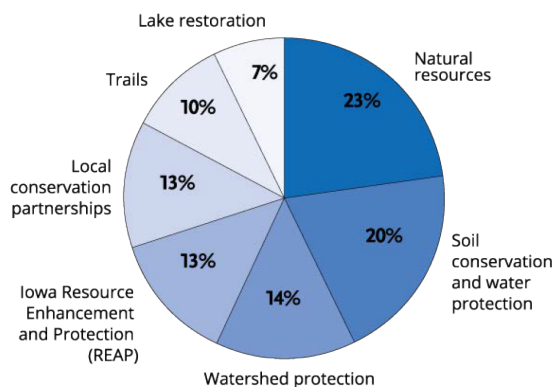
## Estimated revenue of \$150-\$180 million each year

- Up to two-thirds of the total revenue of the Trust Fund is available for **voluntary, non-regulatory, private land conservation projects outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.**

- Over \$670 million in unmet, shovel-ready project needs have been identified and are ready to go once funding is available.

- The vast majority of Trust Fund dollars are designated for **water quality improvement projects**, including lake restoration, wildlife habitat projects, water protection and enhancing flood protection efforts.

- Trust Fund dollars can be used for **wildlife habitat, parks and nature preserves** — ensuring open spaces for the next generation to enjoy Iowa's traditions of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.



# ACCOUNTABILITY TO IOWANS

The Trust will fund voluntary, non-regulatory conservation partnerships and is accountable to taxpayers through public oversight, mandatory annual audits and regular reports submitted to the Iowa legislature.

# ECONOMIC BENEFITS

## The Trust Fund formula is about Iowa's quality of life, workforce development and economic development.

The Trust Fund and its formula provide the initial funding necessary to help implement the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, while also providing quality of life components like trails, outdoor recreation and access to public land that Iowans demand. These quality of life initiatives will ensure that Iowa can attract and retain a qualified workforce while also guaranteeing that Iowa and its communities reap the economic benefits and vibrancy that is generated by ecotourism.

In Iowa, outdoor recreation generates \$6.1 billion in consumer spending, \$1.7 billion in wages and salaries, 75,000 direct Iowa jobs and \$433 million in state and local revenue tax.

# THE NEED

- Less than 10 percent of Iowa's wetlands — natural spaces that help prevent flooding and provide habitat for wildlife — remain, amounting to a loss of **5 million** acres of wetlands.

- Over the last two decades, Iowa has lost more than **1.6 million acres of habitat** suitable for pheasants and other small game.

- Iowa loses an average of **5 tons** per acre of soil, our major economic engine, each year to erosion.

- **Roughly half** of Iowa's rivers, lakes and streams fail to meet water quality standards.

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