

# Funding Iowa's **Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund**



Iowa's Water and Land Legacy (IWILL) brings Iowans together in support of permanent, substantial, reliable funding to improve our water quality, protect our soil, enhance our wildlife habitat and increase outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Iowa.

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. Nine years later, the Trust Fund sits empty because it requires a state sales tax increase of 3/8ths of a cent for funding.

**We urge legislators and the governor to include a sales tax increase in any future tax reform efforts and maintain the Trust Fund formula that was in place when Iowa voters passed the amendment.**



## **WATER QUALITY**

The majority of Trust Fund dollars can go toward water quality improvement projects, including lake restoration, soil and water protection, and enhanced flood protection efforts. Up to two-thirds of the revenue is available for voluntary conservation projects outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Investing in Iowa's natural resources ensures that our communities benefit from ecotourism and Iowa companies can recruit and retain a quality workforce. In Iowa, outdoor recreation accounts for \$8.7 billion in consumer spending, 83,000 jobs and \$649 million in state and local tax revenue.



## **RURAL REVITALIZATION**

Rural Iowa will benefit from the economic capital growth, tourism sales and conservation benefits the Trust Fund will provide. Quality of life initiatives, including outdoor recreation opportunities, will encourage our educated young Iowans to choose thriving rural communities to live, work and raise families.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

The preservation and investments to protect Iowa's green spaces, water and air quality can be keys to improving the health of current and future Iowans. Children's risk for obesity can increase by as much as 60% if they don't have nearby parks, sidewalks and other green space or recreational amenities.



Funds voluntary, non-regulatory soil/water projects

Accountable to taxpayers through mandatory annual audits and regular reports to the legislature

Estimated revenue of \$187.5 million per year

Polling shows 69% of Iowa voters support increasing the sales tax by 3/8 of a cent to fund the Trust Fund

**It's our time. It's our legacy.  
Fund the Trust.**

[www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org](http://www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org)