

**5-YEAR PLAN
July 2010
Resource Enhancement And Protection
Winnebago County**

REVIEW and UPDATE:

In 1989, the Iowa General Assembly established a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) plan. The legislators and people of Iowa recognized the need to protect and enhance Iowa's dwindling natural resources. The REAP Act was signed into law by Governor Terry Branstad on May 27, 1989. The intent of this law was to fund the REAP program with at least \$20 million, and as much as \$30 million, per year. However, with budget restraints in place this program has yet to be fully funded by the projected amount. The funds allocated each year by the legislature are divided as follows:

*40% of this allocation is held in account by the State for competitive grants for projects.

For FY09-10, \$18 million dollars has been appropriated. Additional funds will come from the sale of the Natural Resources license plates plus interest received from the REAP account. The available funds will be divided as follows:

\$350,000 for Conservation Education
1% for Administration
28% for Open Spaces (state acquisition and development of lands and waters)
20% for County Conservation Boards (each county to receive a share)
20% for Soil and Water Enhancement
15% for City Parks
9% for Management/Develop of State properties
5% for Historical Projects
3% for Roadside Vegetation Management

From its inception, the actual appropriations received for REAP is as follows:

1990-91 FY \$20 million
1992-93 FY \$8.5 million
1993-94 FY \$7.5 million
1994-95 FY \$7 million
1995-96 FY \$8 million
1996-97 FY \$9 million
1997-98 FY \$9 million
1998-99 FY \$10.5 million
1999-00 FY \$10.5 million
2000-01 FY \$10.5 million
2001-02 FY \$7.2 million
2002-03 FY \$2 million
2003-04 FY \$11 million
2004-05 FY \$11 million
2005-06 FY \$11 million
2006-07 FY \$11 million
2007-08 FY \$15.5 million
2008-09 FY \$18 million
2009-10 FY \$18 million

County conservation board allocations: Twenty percent of the REAP funds are allocated annually to the 99 county conservation boards.

- ◆ 30% of this allocation is distributed equally to each county conservation board.
- ◆ 30% of this allocation is distributed to each county conservation board on a per capita basis if the county conservation board is currently received at least 22 cents per thousand of tax evaluations on the local level.
- ◆ 40% of this allocation is held in account by the State for competitive grants for projects.

The following is a breakdown of REAP funding received in Winnebago County by category and fiscal year financed:

County Conservation

Recipient: Winnebago County Special REAP Account

FY 1990 Per county allocations \$9,086
FY 1991 Per county allocations \$12,415
FY 1992 Per county allocations \$6,121
FY 1993 Per county allocations \$4,917
FY 1994 Per county allocations \$4,288
FY 1995 Per county allocations \$4,587
FY 1996 Per county allocations \$5,527
FY 1997 Per county allocations \$6,054
FY 1998 Per county allocations \$5,992
FY 1999 Per county allocations \$5,785
FY 2000 Per county allocations \$6,695
FY 2001 Per county allocations \$6,759
FY 2002 Per county allocations \$4,680
FY 2003 Per county allocations \$183
FY 2004 Per county allocations \$6,782
FY 2005 Per county allocations \$6,705
FY 2006 Per county allocations \$7,007
FY 2007 Per county allocations \$6,901
FY 2008 Per county allocations \$9,627
FY 1991 Per population allocations \$9,440
FY 1992 Per population allocations \$3,233
FY 1993 Per population allocations \$2,188
FY 1994 Per population allocations \$2,046
FY 1995 Per population allocations \$2,182
FY 1996 Per population allocations \$2,540
FY 1997 Per population allocations \$2,787
FY 1998 Per population allocations \$2,800
FY 1999 Per population allocations \$2,593
FY 2000 Per population allocations \$2,998
FY 2001 Per population allocations \$3,027
FY 2002 Per population allocations \$1,909
FY 2003 Per population allocations \$74
FY 2004 Per population allocations \$2,743
FY 2005 Per population allocations \$2,731
FY 2006 Per population allocations \$2,839
FY 2007 Per population allocations \$2,782
FY 2008 Per population allocations \$3,866

FY 2009 Per population allocations \$4,489
Total: \$177,378

Historical Resource Development

Recipient: County Historical Society
FY 2001 Gov. Branstad Memorabilia Collection \$3,380
FY 2004 Timberland Mus. Fire Damage Assessment \$8,500
Total: \$11,880

Land Management

Recipient: Pilot Knob State Park
FY 2000 Playground equipment \$11,420
Total: \$11,420

Roadside Vegetation

Recipient: City of Forest City
FY 1997 Gateway planting \$1,340
Recipient: City of Thompson

FY 1991 Gateway planting \$1,694
Recipient: Winnebago CCB

FY 2009 Equipment, Seed \$1,699
FY 2005 Seeding equipment \$7,470
Recipient: Winnebago County

FY 1991 Roadside inventory \$3,993
FY 1991 Seed purchase \$10,337
FY 1995 Seed purchase \$1,600
FY 1996 Seed purchase \$1,575
FY 2000 Seed purchase \$1,550
FY 2004 Seeding equipment \$1,043
FY 2006 Seeding equipment \$7,500
FY 2007 Seeding equipment \$5,850
Total: \$45,651

Soil and Water Enhancement

Recipient: Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District
FY 1990 Allocations for practices \$12,616
FY 1991 Allocations for practices \$18,632
FY 1992 Allocations for practices \$5,417
FY 1993 Allocations for practices \$5,143
FY 1994 Allocations for practices \$17,031
FY 1995 Allocations for practices \$16,295
FY 1996 Allocations for practices \$10,747
FY 1997 Allocations for practices \$8,400
FY 1998 Allocations for practices \$6,503
FY 1999 Allocations for practices \$6,024
FY 2000 Allocations for practices \$14,551
FY 2001 Allocations for practices \$17,302

FY 2002 Allocations for practices \$12,991
FY 2003 Allocations for practices \$6,507
FY 2004 Allocations for practices \$11,343
FY 2005 Allocations for practices \$7,940
FY 2006 Allocations for practices \$8,041
FY 2007 Allocations for practices \$7,370
FY 2008 Allocations for practices \$15,639
FY 2009 Allocations for practices \$11,978
FY 1991 Forestry & native vegetation \$10,346
FY 1992 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,712
FY 1993 Forestry & native vegetation \$1,315
FY 1994 Forestry & native vegetation \$5,023
FY 1995 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,444
FY 1996 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,554
FY 1997 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,123
FY 1998 Forestry & native vegetation \$1,662
FY 1999 Forestry & native vegetation \$3,033
FY 2000 Forestry & native vegetation \$5,349
FY 2001 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,562
FY 2002 Forestry & native vegetation \$658
FY 2003 Forestry & native vegetation \$3,874
FY 2004 Forestry & native vegetation \$1,992
FY 2005 Forestry & native vegetation \$1,985
FY 2007 Forestry & native vegetation \$2,457
FY 2008 Forestry & native vegetation \$3,576
FY 2009 Forestry & native vegetation \$3,997
Total: \$278,132

Total REAP Allocations in Winnebago County through FY 2009 is \$524,461

WHAT WE HAVE:

1. Water Resources:

30 miles Winnebago River

2. Woodlands:

1,500 acres of public and private woodlands

3. Land and Soil:

4,350 acres of county roadside capable of supporting prairie
241,000 acres of cropland
57,431 acres susceptible to erosion
57,431 acres considered highly erodible
13,921 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program
7,350 acres in the Wetland Reserve Program
6,075 acres within city limits
3,437 acres of county wildlife areas, parks and preserves
6,000 acres of state wildlife areas, parks, refuges and preserves

(Including federally owned property managed by the IDNR)

4. Human, Cultural and Historical:

11,723 total population of Winnebago County (2000 census)

9,083 adults

2,640 under age of 18

4 historical museums

6 buildings on the National Registry of Historic Places

THE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Robert Schwartz, Winnebago County Conservation Board

Secretary: Carolyn Frakes, Forest City Outdoor Recreation Committee

Members: Sharyl Anderson, Winnebago SWCD, Todd Farland, Winnebago Hancock Pheasants Forever Chapter, Paul Bartelt, Waldorf College, Brad Huntington, North Iowa School District, Jim Oulman, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, Jamie Thomsen, Winnebago County ISU Extension, Marilyn Hoffman, Lake Mills Chamber Development, Tamara Sheehan, Forest City Outdoor Recreation Committee.

THE PLAN:

The Winnebago County Conservation Board (WCCB), the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and all of the cities within Winnebago County were invited to contribute to the 2010 five-year plan. This plan was put together by the Winnebago County Resource Enhancement Committee with input from the following agencies:

- Winnebago County Conservation Board
- Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Forest City
- City of Buffalo Center
- City of Lake Mills
- City of Leland
- City of Scarville
- City of Rake
- Winnebago-Hancock Chapter of Pheasants Forever
- Winnebago County SWCD
- Winnebago County Historical Society

The following 5-year REAP plan outline is prepared to assist the Winnebago County Resource Enhancement Committee in inventorying the needs of the participating Winnebago County agencies. Please note that the following specific REAP spending objectives are not listed in priority order.

I. Education - Environmental/Conservation.

Education is the basis for all programming, development and improvements. A high priority is put on educational programming and awareness.

A. Education Materials/Curriculum Development - on going

1. WCCB

a. Materials and EE equipment is needed for school and public programming.

b. New innovated curriculum is needed for school and public programming.

B. Waste Reduction and Recycling - on going

1. WCCB

- a. Promote recycling to the general public.
- b. Promote recycling to schools.
- c. Promote leaf and lawn clipping conservation techniques to general public.
- d. Promote leaf and lawn clipping conservation techniques to schools.

C. Soil Conservation - on going

1. WCCB

- a. Promote conserving soil by preventing its erosion and depletion.
- b. Promote river and stream corridor protection (filter strips).

2. SWCD

- a. Educate and assist landowners and public agencies by providing wise recommendations for the proper land management decisions.
- b. Promote conserving soil by preventing its erosion and depletion.
- c. Promote river and stream corridor protection (filter strips).

D. Wise Land Use - on going

Educate and assist landowners and public agencies by providing wise recommendations for the proper land management decisions to reduce erosion and quality depletion.

- 1. Promote the Forest Reserve Program, tree and prairie grass plantings, particularly through the use of REAP funds. (SWCD)

E. Water Quality - on going

Educate and assist landowners and public agencies in effectively conserving water, improving water quality and proper use to prevent further quality depletion.

1. SWCD

- a. Promote water quality conservation.
- b. Promote tillage conservation.

2. WCCB-SWCD

- a. Educate people about water cycles and how contaminants reach surface and groundwater aquifers.

F. Resource/Wildlife Management - on going

1. WCCB

- a. Promote forest management workshops.
- b. Promote wildlife management workshops - REAP CEP Grant
- c. Promote prairie grass management workshops

2. SWCD

- a. Promote wildlife conservation

G. Hazardous Waste - on going

- 1. Promote hazardous waste conservation and disposal.

- H. Teacher In-service – on going
 - 1. Promote teacher workshops.
 - 2. Provide materials and training.

- I. Invasive - on going
 - 1. Promote biological control study and methods.
 - a. Yellow Leafy Spurge Rose
 - b. Honey Suckle
 - c. Garlic Mustard

II. Enhancement.

Natural resource enhancement is an integral part of the REAP program. Enhancements are categorized in the following manner.

A. New Developments

- 1. WCCB
 - a. Wetland enhancements on land enrolled in the wetland reserve program.
 - b. Construct additional canoe/kayak accesses to the Winnebago River Water Trail.

- 2. City of Forest City
 - a. Develop a trail system connecting Forest City with adjacent communities and counties.
 - b. Continue development of on road bicycle facilities and off-road recreational trails as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan
 - c. Continue development and creation of new parks when needed.

- 3. City of Lake Mills
 - a. Extend walking/biking trail by 1-2 miles ft. /miles within the city limits. The first mile would connect to our existing recreational trail and go along N 3rd Avenue or if possible, along fence lines around the residential area. The second mile would be along the west edge of Lake Mills in CRP land (we have worked with all property owners and they have received permission to take land out of CRP and our recreational trail committee would reimburse them for any payment decreases.
 - b. Establish a trail to Rice Lake State Park and Golf Course area.
 - c. Construct a restroom at Lion's Park.
 - d. Construct a shelter house Elevator Park.

- 4. Communities with population <2000
 - a. Participate in the development of county wide recreational trail plan
 - b. Develop multiuse recreational trails and bike routes
 - c. Develop water trails, access points and necessary amenities
 - d. Recognize, enhance, and restore points of historical significance.

B. Improvements to Existing Areas and Buildings

1. WCCB

Development Management Plans for the following WCCB Areas:

- a. Ambrosion Recreation Area
- b. Bolstad Wildlife Area

- c. C.A. Block Wildlife Area
- d. Dahle Park
- e. Florence Recreation Area
- f. Hagen Prairie
- g. Hanson Trail
- h. Hogsback Wildlife Area and Shooting Range
- i. Hogsback Wildlife Area Annex
- j. Holland Prairie Conservation and Youth Hunting Area
- k. Grant Wildlife Area
- l. Gruis Recreation Area
- m. Jensen-Kvale Tract
- n. Lande River Conservation Area
- o. Larson-Tweed Wildlife Area
- p. Linden Township Cemetery Prairie
- q. Luke Rossiter Wildlife Area
- r. Nieman Wildlife Area
- s. Osmundson Slough
- t. Quam Wildlife Area
- u. Rauk-Rasmussen Tract
- v. Ryerson Tract
- w. Thompson Roadside Prairie
- x. Thorpe Park
- y. Thorpe Recreation Area
- z. Russ Wildlife Area
- aa. Winnebago County Home Farm
- bb. Winnebago River Recreation Area
- cc. Winnebago River Water Trail

2. City Of Forest City

- a. Continue development of the recreational trail system around the community.
- b. Seek development of a recreational trail on abandoned railroad right-of-way connecting Forest City with adjacent communities and counties.
- c. Continue timber stand improvement and tree maintenance removal in all Forest City parks.
- e. Establish a tree inventory and promote the many tree species in Forest City parks.
- f. Continue to plant new tree and shrub species in city parks.
- g. Downtown revitalization landscape planting.
- h. Develop self-guided interpretive trail in East Woods Park.
- i. Standardize entrance signs for all city parks.
- j. Replace existing structures within Pammel Park including restrooms, storm shelter and concession building.

3. City of Lake Mills

- a. Continue development of the recreation trail system around the community.
- b. Replace playground equipment at Elevator Park.

4. Communities with < 2000 population

- a. The development of the recreational trail system around the communities.
- b. Establish a tree inventory and promote the many tree species in city parks.
- c. Continue to plant new tree and shrub species in city parks.

C. Equipment

1. WCCB
 - a. Update deteriorated equipment.
 - b. Technology updates for an office & nature center.
 - c. Trail maintenance equipment.
2. City of Forest City
 - a. Trail maintenance equipment.
3. City of Lake Mills
 - a. Trail maintenance equipment.
4. Communities with population <2,000
 - a. Evaluate, plan and implement enhancements for existing open space areas
 - (1) Shelters.
 - (2) Basic amenities.
 - (3) Multiuse trails.
 - (4) Passive recreation opportunities.
 - (5) ADA upgrades.
 - (6) Interpretive components.

III. Land Acquisition/Public Easements

Acquisition and easements would be pursued, as they would become available.

A. WCCB

1. New Wetlands - areas that could be enhanced as wetlands.
 2. Additions to existing areas through fee-title acquisition, easement or lease.
 - a. Areas around Thorpe Park Complex.
 - b. Areas around C.A. Block Wildlife Area.
 - c. Extend the Winnebago River Greenbelt.
 3. Critical Areas
 - a. Along Winnebago River Greenbelt system.
 4. Historical Areas
 5. New trails.
- #### B. Communities with population <2,000
1. Identify needs and opportunities for open space expansion.
 2. Enhance existing open space areas through acquisition of adjacent land parcels as available.
 3. Protect existing historical areas through acquisition and or easements (buildings, land and plants).
- #### C. City of Forest City
1. Development of new parks.
 2. Continued development of existing trail systems and the creation of new recreational trails across private property.

IV. One Year Spending Plan

A. WCCB

1. Trail maintenance and repairs.
2. Land acquisition and development.

B. City of Forest City

1. Trail construction and repairs.
2. Pammel Park concession, restroom and storm shelter construction.

C. City of Lake Mills

1. Trail construction and repairs.
2. Park maintenance.

D. Communities under 2,000 people

1. Park maintenance.