

WABASH RIVER

INDIANA

Project Name: Healthy Rivers Initiative

Project Type:

- Acquisition/Easement/Protection
- Restoration (Riparian and Wetland)

Project Description: The Wabash River system is a unique natural resource, containing the longest free-flowing stretch of any river in the United States east of the Mississippi River and harbors many of Indiana's rarest fish, mussels, birds, and plants.

The Healthy Rivers Initiative is the largest conservation initiative ever undertaken in Indiana. The project involves a partnership of agencies and organizations working together with willing landowners to permanently protect 43,000 acres of floodplain habitat along a 94-mile corridor of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek for fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and to improve the overall health of the Wabash River ecosystem.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Ducks Unlimited
- Vigo County Parks Department
- The Nature Conservancy
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
- Eli Lilly, Inc./Elanco Clinton Laboratories

Outcomes for 2012:

- Acquire 3,480-acre Fairbanks Landing property and pursue acquisition of other important habitat
- Complete restoration work on a wetland and floodplain demonstration project on Eli Lilly, Inc./Elanco Clinton Laboratories property
- Coordinate with partners to evaluate key applications for permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easements in the Wabash River and Sugar Creek floodplains
- Assist Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District on a raft trip on the Wabash River for 300 youth over 3 days, focusing on river ecology and conservation
- Coordinate with partners to protect and restore important habitat through the Wabash River Corridor North American Wetlands Conservation Act project



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