

Using Forest Legacy to Protect Adjacent Properties

Rallying Multiple Landowners to Conserve Large Forest Blocks

The Challenge

Golf course development, residential homes, and forest fragmentation are threatening an area of central hardwood forest located less than 20 miles from Bedford, IN. The forests in the area have been actively managed, but development pressure is increasing. Large blocks of forest still remain, but these blocks are sub-divided into many parcels, each with its own owner. These large working forests can be maintained if a collection of landowners is willing to protect them through sale to the state of either the land or a conservation easement on the land.

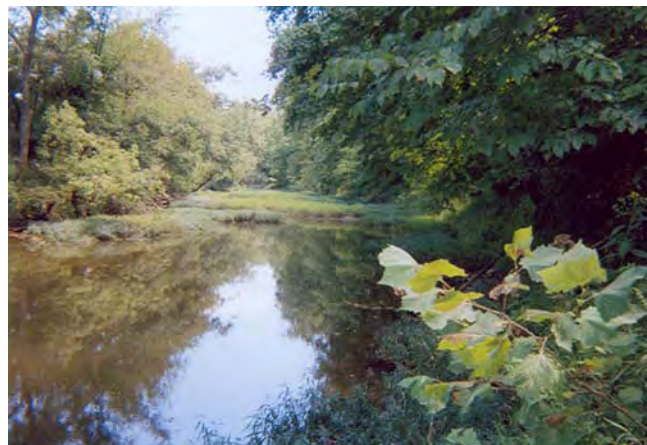
The Solution

As often happens in forest conservation, great outcomes start with families who care about—and talk about—the future they want for their woods and their family legacy. Initial work with a father and son on their 820 acre central hardwood forest led to a Forest Legacy conservation easement on their property.

That initial tract, dubbed Indian Creek I, was such a success in the family's eyes that their excitement about the program spread to their neighbors. In 2005, a Forest Legacy conservation easement for 108 acres was completed on Indian Creek III. In 2007, the Indian Creek II Forest Legacy project completed, conserving another 1,363 acres of working, central hardwood forest.

Resulting Benefits

- Families and the public benefited from the conservation of working forests by keeping this forest block together.
- A contiguous, 2,291 acre block of central hardwood forest is permanently protected by conservation easements funded through Forest Legacy.



View of Indian Creek, a ribbon of water connecting the permanently protected Indiana Creek I, II & III Forest Legacy Projects. (Photo credit: Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

Highlights of Indiana's Forest Legacy Program

- Eleven properties totaling 6,674 acres have been protected with conservation easements valued at \$8,584,500 using \$7,164,300 of Forest Legacy funds.
- An additional 765 acres were permanently protected as Forest Legacy cost-share tracts. The value of the cost-share tracts exceeds \$1.8 million.
- Funding for 3 additional properties totaling nearly 2,250 acres has been allocated by the Forest Legacy Program.

Sharing Success

Hubert Tieman and Hubert Tieman Jr; Jerry and Kim Waldrige; and Danzer Forestland, Inc., all Indian Creek region landowners, believe in the value of private forest and recognized the importance of making sure their forests are available for future generations. Neighboring landowners now express their interest in protecting their forest lands. In the future, Indiana Forest Legacy hopes to see the continuing expansion of protected Indian Creek forest area.

The Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program protects forests by protecting lands from future development and fragmentation.



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