

Who Is Eligible to Participate?

Landowners owning land in the following Indiana counties:

Clay
Fountain
Montgomery
Owen
Parke
Putnam
Sullivan
Vermillion
Vigo

What's the Next Step?

If you are interested in finding out more about conservation easements and how they might help protect your land, contact us for more information.

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc.

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Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

- ♦ Is a **locally** based, **locally** directed organization formed to address important issues within its area
- ♦ Is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization
- ♦ Is the entity which will be the legal holder of conservation easements

The Council's Mission: to motivate, assist, enable, and coordinate local citizens in the conservation and development of natural, human, and economic resources.

Sycamore Trails RC&D Land Trust Committee

- ♦ Operates under the authority of the Sycamore Trails RC&D Council

The Land Trust Committee's mission:
To assist property owners in permanently protecting, preserving, or enhancing the natural values of the land for present and future generations.

All programs and services of Sycamore Trails RC&D are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Saving Today's Landscape



for Tomorrow



Conservation Easements

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*A Voluntary Solution
for Land Protection*

What is a Conservation Easement?

- ♦ voluntary, written agreement between the landowner and a qualified conservation group
- ♦ landowner agrees to restrict the use of the land—specifically development
- ♦ legally binding and permanent -- future landowners are bound by original agreement

What Types of Land are Eligible?

- ♦ farmland



- ♦ woodland



- ♦ pastureland

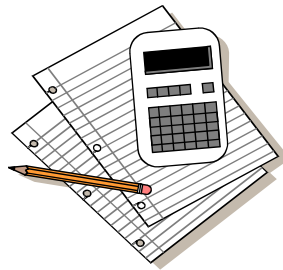


- ♦ wetland



How Does This Affect Me as a Landowner?

- ♦ I keep title to the land
- ♦ privately owned; no public access
- ♦ I can use the land in any way not restricted by terms of conservation easement
- ♦ I can sell, lease, or transfer land



What Are the Tax Benefits?

Donated conservation easements may be eligible for

1. federal income tax benefits,
2. estate tax benefits and/or
3. property tax benefits

What is a Land Trust?

- ♦ a nonprofit, locally-based, organization that works hand-in-hand with landowners to find ways to protect their land in the face of ever-growing development pressure.
- ♦ a legal entity able to hold conservation easements on parcels of land

What Are the Responsibilities of the Easement Holder?

- ♦ permanent guardian for the land's conservation values
- ♦ annual monitoring to assure compliance with easement terms; visits scheduled with landowner
- ♦ educate future landowners about terms of easement