

Advocates for locally led  
conservation



wisconsinlandwater.org

# CONSERVATION WORKS

## Budget Priority 1:

**Provide \$18.7 million in stable, core funding support for county conservation department staffing from the DATCP Soil and Water Resources Management Program budget.**



## LEARN MORE:

[wisconsinlandwater.org/  
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## THIS INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION

A state investment in county conservation staff is critical to maintaining and expanding Wisconsin's capacity to implement critical state conservation and agricultural programs.

- **Enhances Wisconsin's capacity to meet conservation standards and improve water quality, while supporting private landowner management goals at the same time.** \$18.7 million in stable, core funding support for conservation staff meets counties' needs and the state's statutory obligation as defined in Wis. Stats. 92.14(6)(b).
- **Delivers on a bipartisan priority** that has received support from agriculture, local government, and conservation groups alike.
- **Provides professional, proven technical support to our state's agricultural industry,** whether through supporting producer-led watershed groups, helping farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans, or assisting landowners with accessing funding support for conservation projects.
- **Makes good financial sense for Wisconsin.** Not only do county conservation departments provide valuable, cost-effective services for their local communities, but their return on investment is high. They multiply the impact of state funding by leveraging federal and private grant dollars, putting more conservation on the land, and bringing dollars into local communities at the same time.



“In my experience, it’s been a pleasure to work with county conservation staff. They will answer your questions and they will help you any way they can.”

**Roger Bindl**  
Sauk Co.



## CONSERVATION WORKS FOR WISCONSIN

County conservation staff provide boots-on-the-ground leadership to carry out programs that conserve Wisconsin’s land and water resources. Whether supporting producer-led groups, assisting waterfront property owners, helping farmers improve soil health, or responding to natural disasters, county conservation staff are relied upon by their communities.



### Protecting Local Resources

County staff report spending a majority of their time assisting farmers in planning and designing conservation practices, administering the Farmland Preservation Program, and implementing invasive species control.



### Returning on Investment

County staff leverage the state staffing investment through federal grant and private foundation programs. In 2021, county staff helped secure over \$51 million in federal NRCS incentives for landowners.



### Showing Proven Results

Conservationists and landowners work together to keep soil and nutrients on the landscape and out of streams, lakes, and drinking water. In 2021, over one million pounds of nutrients and soil were retained on farm fields and kept out of waterways.



WI Land+Water is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership organization that supports the efforts of 450 county land conservation committee (LCC) supervisors and 370 professional staff in 72 county land and water conservation department (LWCD) offices. We provide training and education, develop conservation standards, promote youth education, build partnerships, and advocate for our members.