Mississippi Valley CONSERVANCY



The Land. Our Future



The Conservancy

Our Mission:

To conserve native habitats and farmlands in the Driftless Area for the health and well-being of current and future generations.





It all started on a back porch

The beginning:

- 1997 concerned citizen's gathered
- Common vision
- Protect the Driftless Area





Program Areas

- 3 Key programs:
- Land Protection
- Land Management
- Environmental Education



Land Protection

Help families protect their land for the trees, plants, birds, insects and animals that depend on it for food and shelter.









Conservation Easement

Conservation easements are one of the most powerful, effective tools available for the permanent conservation of private lands in the **United States.**



What is a Conservation Easement

- Voluntary legal agreement between land owner and land trust
- Protects conservation values
- Permanently restricts development rights
- Our easements are perpetual
- All future landowners held to same restrictions



Let's Break that Down

- What do you mean legal?
- Conservation values?
- Development rights?
- Perpetual?
- Future landowners?





Mississippi Valley CONSERVANCY

Development Pressure

Population & Growth

- Wl's population 2013: 5.7 million
- Est. population 2030: 6.4 million

WI farm land loss per year

• 30,000 acres

WI leads the nation

Nationally, 2 million acres

Habitat loss

- Prairies & oak savannas reduced to fractions
- 1/100 of 1% of Wl's oak savannas remain



Housing Density 1940 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 1950 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 1960 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 1970 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 1980 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 1990 Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Density 2000 Partial Block Group Resolution



Projected Housing Density 2010 Partial Block Group Resolution



Projected Housing Density 2020 Partial Block Group Resolution



Projected Housing Density 2030 Partial Block Group Resolution









Restoring the Land

Supporting maintenance work on conserved land.







One Year of Restoration



6 miles trail maintenance

- 11 acres of weed control
- 2,000 lbs garlic mustard & parsnip pulled
- 6 acres brush clearing
- 10 acres forest improvement
- 5 acres bluff prairie improvement
- 16,000 feet firebreaks
- 45.5 acres pollinator prairie planting
- 4.8 acres tree planting
- 100 acres prescribed burns
- Volunteers & Interns 1,200 hrs.





Teaching Others

- Volunteer work days
 - Volunteers learn about land management and restoration techniques
- Family walks and hikes
 - Linked to the Land (12)
 - Seasons in the Coulee Region (4)
- Acorns to Oaks:
 - K 12 environmental education







Twenty-one Years Later

- Over 20,000 acres
 protected forever!
- 31 new projects in the hopper.
- For: The land. Our Future.





Get involved

Support Driftless Area conservation.

- Join us on a hike
- Donate
- Volunteer
- Tell a friend
- Follow us on Facebook



Don't Let this be the Future



Working together we can change this picture.

