

# WINNESHIEK COUNTY FIVE-YEAR REAP PLAN

2024-2029

**This comprehensive plan serves to illustrate the priorities outlined by the diverse representatives that form the Winneshiek County REAP Committee**

## **Objectives**

### **A. Acquisition, Protection, and Development of Outdoor Natural and Recreational Areas**

1. Recreational Parks and Open Play Areas
2. Recreational Trails
3. Trout Streams and Access Areas
4. Open Spaces and Buffer Zones around Priority Areas
5. Upper Iowa River, Turkey River, Yellow River Greenbelt, Dry Run Greenbelt
6. Canoe Accesses on Navigable Rivers
7. Increase Connectivity

### **B. Identification and Protection of Sensitive Areas**

1. Rare and Endangered Species Areas
2. Algific Slopes-usually north-facing slope cold air seep with probable rare species.
3. Wetlands
4. Prairies
5. Fens-an alkaline seep similar to bogs (but alkaline and containing probable rare species)
6. Caves- underground chamber open to the surface in which chamber is larger than opening
7. Natural Sites-natural points of interest including waterfalls, springs, coldwater streams, etc.
8. Historical Sites and Resources
9. Archeological Sites and Resources
10. Inventory Sensitive Areas
11. Native and Virgin Woodland Protection undisturbed woodlands containing deep woods species, i.e. orchids, ferns, etc.

### **C. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Environment**

1. Forestry Incentives
2. Prairie Plantations and Renovations
3. Windbreak Plantation and Renovation
4. Sinkhole Protection
5. Watershed Protection
6. Protected Waters Area: Upper Iowa River Protection and Development
7. Wildlife Habitat Development and Enhancement – Game and Non-Game
8. Roadside Management Program Development
9. Upper Iowa, Turkey, and Yellow River Preservation and Recreation Enhancement
10. Soil and Wind Erosion Prevention
11. Strategic Invasive Species Control on High-Quality Public Lands
12. Create Buffer Zones Planted to Native Vegetation.

### **D. Education and Appreciation of Natural Environment/Promotion of Conservation Ethic**

1. Soil Conservation and Water Quality,
2. Schoolyard Wildlife or Environmental Education Areas -Development and Enhancement
3. Conservation and Environmental Workshops for Teachers, Landowners, and the General Public
4. Youth Campouts Programs-Development and Enhancement
5. School and Youth Group Day Camp -Development and Enhancement
6. User Guides to Winneshiek County – QR Codes
7. Public Lands Inventory

8. Winneshiek County Audio-Visual program – Videos (drone/360)
9. Develop and Enhance Interpretive Sites in Winneshiek County
10. Waste Reduction Education
11. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, & Green Energy Education
12. Landowner Education (farm, acreage, & urban) on Conservation Ethic & Wildlife Habitat Creation
13. Educational Exhibits and Interactive Materials

**Representatives from the following organizations within Winneshiek County were involved in outlining the objectives.**

Winneshiek Co. Supervisor  
Winneshiek Co. Conservation Bd  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
Decorah School Dist.  
Pheasants Forever  
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Decorah Park and Rec  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Iowa Coldwater Conservancy  
Winneshiek County Historical Society  
Decorah Human Powered Trails  
Upper Iowa Audubon