Environmental Profile: Benton County, Indiana

Information & County Contacts

*Benton County Visitor’s Center:*
(765) 884-1090

*Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District:*
(260) 484-5848

Land, Water, & Biodiversity & Conservation Efforts:

Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area Expansion – Bicentennial Nature Trust

Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area is a 700-acre grassland field. Pine Creek supports a diverse mix of wetland and upland birds associated with the restored wetlands and old field grassland habitats. During spring and fall migrations, large numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds are present when water levels are appropriate. Regular migrant waterfowl include practically all of the dabbling ducks—Gadwall, Northern Pintail, both teal species, American Widgeon and Northern Shoveler. Pine creek is known to be home to 205 species have been since 1995.

The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife has recently purchased 10 acres of prairie wildlife habitat in Benton County, to add to the Game Bird Habitat Areas. Management will focus on uplands and a small wetland, establishing food plots, and providing additional recreational opportunities.¹

¹ http://www.indianaudubon.org/Birds/DetailedBirdingLocations/PineCreek/tabid/188/Default.aspx
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**Big Pine creek Watershed Project**

The big pine creek watershed project is aimed at conserving and improving the natural environment while balancing interests of stakeholders in the Big Pine Creek Watershed through several best management practices (BMPs). Some of those BMPs are highlighted below:

Grassed Waterways: these are shaped or graded channel that are established with suitable vegetation to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet. They are built to convey runoff from the surrounding land of higher elevation without causing erosion or flooding, to reduce gully erosion and to protecting and improve surface water quality.

Oak Woodland Restoration: Many oak woodlands are being lost, due to excessive grazing or their conversion to sugar maples or invasive species. Oak woodlands are restored to provide habitat for wildlife such as deer, turkey and red-headed woodpeckers, provide Food sources for pollinators, and Water retention and nutrient and sediment reduction. But luckily, this trend can be reversed with some sweat equity put into your woods.²

**Clean Energy Initiatives:**

**Fowler Ridge Wind Farms**

Fowler Ridge Wind Farm (FRWF) is the largest Wind farm in Benton County and one the largest onshore wind farms in the world. The plant is owned and operated jointly by BP Alternative Energy North America and Dominion Resources. FRWF has about 460 turbines with a total capacity of 750MW, which meets the power consumption requirements of 200,000 average American homes.³

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