



**SIERRA
CLUB**

IOWA CHAPTER

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

- 1. Extend REAP beyond 2023,**
- 2. Fully Fund REAP At \$20 Million,**
- 3. Keep the funding formulas as they are.**

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), a state law enacted in 1989, provides the framework for funding to protect Iowa's natural areas, soil conservation, water quality and historical resources.

REAP is a good investment. REAP provides jobs, encourages tourism, protects historical and cultural resources, provides recreation opportunities and protects Iowa's soil and water.

Cities, counties and soil conservation districts also benefit from REAP through a competitive grant process which can be used to fund projects such as city and county parks and historical buildings and sites. In fact, every county in Iowa has benefited from funds spent on REAP projects.

Although statutorily mandated at \$20 million annually, the Iowa legislature determines the actual appropriation each year. The governor must then either agree or veto the appropriation. When it is fully funded, REAP provides \$20 million annually for projects across the state. REAP funding is generated from the sale of natural resource license plates and from the Environment First Fund (which is funded with gambling receipts).

REAP is set to expire on June 30, 2026. The Iowa Chapter supports extending the REAP programs and removing the expiration date.

REAP protects Iowa's natural areas, soil conservation, water quality and historical resources.

Four state agencies administer REAP – Department of Transportation, Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Department of Natural Resources. The REAP law specifies the formula for distribution of the funds as follows:

- The first \$350,000 is spent on conservation education
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources receives 1 percent of the remaining REAP money for DNR administration
- The remaining REAP money is divided among
 - State open space - 28%
 - City parks and open space – 15%
 - Soil and water enhancement – 20%
 - County conservation – 20%
 - Public land management – 9%
 - Historical resources – 5%
 - Roadside vegetation – 3%



The Iowa Chapter supports these funding formulas and opposes ear-marking individual projects outside of this formula.