



## State of Illinois Needs Assessment Report



## Why Study Open Space Needs?

- Many of the state's key funding programs have been cut in recent years.
- Illinois is not keeping pace with neighboring states.
- The last capital budget was 10 years ago.



## What's Included?

- Assessment of Current and Historical Land Conservation Activities
- Establishing the Need for State Investment
- Economic Benefits of Land Conservation
- Public Support for Investment in Conservation

# Key Takeaway


State spending for land conservation in Illinois has dropped sharply in recent years, with some notable exceptions, and fluctuated greatly.

## Key Takeaway

State governments with significant funds are much better positioned to secure funding from federal governments and attract local government or private philanthropic partners.

## Key Takeaway

Forest preserve, conservation, and park districts estimate they will need more than \$3 billion in funding over the next five years to meet land acquisition and capital needs.

A circular white overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text is centered within the circle.

## Capital Budget Request

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**\$600 million in any statewide  
capital budget to leverage local and  
federal dollars**

## Final Thoughts

With a reliable source of funds Illinois can establish meaningful conservation priorities that protect the most valuable resources, are geographically distributed and otherwise meet important statewide goals and values.